

THE TIMES
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Tomorrow

Trouble-shooter
From Belfast to Birmingham: profile of Douglas Hurd
Wonder mongers
A behind-the-counter glimpse at the new-look Woolworths
Rules of play
Bernard Levin on the GLC's decision to vet concert performers
Safe driving
A look ahead at the Ryder Cup hopefuls

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition - double the usual daily amount because no-one won yesterday. Portfolio list, page 18: how to play, information service, back page. On Saturday £22,000 can be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Last Atlit detainees set free

The last 119 detainees held at the Atlit prison camp were released and returned to Lebanon. Israel emphasized that it was the tenth such release since April and that in no way connected with the TWA hijacking in June.

Cheers and tears, page 6

Laura Ashley 'no change'

Laura Ashley, aged 60, the fashion and fabric designer, is still critically ill. A spokesman for her company said that there had been no significant change since she was taken to hospital after a fall.

Mururoa visit

President Mitterrand will fly on Friday to the French nuclear test site of Mururoa Atoll for a meeting of a "South Pacific Committee" set up by France.

NCB strife

Serious disagreements over the future structure of the coal board have emerged as Mr Michael Eaton, who has resigned, was admitted to hospital with a suspected perforated ulcer.

Tourist dies

Police in Corfu have detained a Greek youth after the death of a British tourist who was attacked with a bicycle chain in a taverna fight.

Oil discount

Saudi Arabia may be about to breach the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' agreement on prices by supplying oil at a \$4-a-barrel discount to the Opec price.

Huddle selected

Glen Huddle's skills complement the midfield power of Peter Reid and Bryan Robson in the England team to play Romania at Wembley tonight.



Leader page 13
Letters: On Alliance leadership, from Mr A. Butler, MP, and Mr R. S. Rowntree; raising Titanic, from Mr J. Rusbridger.
Leading articles: Birmingham riot, Social Democratic Party; Thailand; Features, pages 10-12.
Higher taxes, fairer play: Central American peace mirage; nuclear safety fears. Spectrum: a taxi driver's life. Wednesday page: childbirth choices. Obituary, page 14.
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La crème de la crème: property.

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1,500 police on alert as Handsworth murder inquiry starts

Hurd pelted on tour of riot devastation

From Colin Hughes and Craig Seton
Handsworth, Birmingham

Sporadic rioting resumed in Handsworth, Birmingham, last night after Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was jeered and pelted during a tour of the scenes of Monday night's devastation which left two Asians dead and two more missing.

All available West Midlands detectives were called in yesterday to launch a computerized murder inquiry and investigation into the looting, arson, and violent assaults.

A separate inquiry by the police and community leaders will urgently seek to trace the detailed causes of the worst outbreak of inner city rioting since Brixton and Toxteth in 1981. Mr Hurd suggested the result of that inquiry may be made public.

Last night 1,500 police officers were drafted into the Handsworth inner city area from all over the Midlands, more than double the number present at the height of Monday's rioting.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, the West Midlands Chief Constable described the atmosphere as "an uneasy peace".

Fears of copy-cat riots in other deprived, multiracial inner city areas around Britain led Mr Hurd to issue warnings to other police forces. He said: "It is very important that every police force with sensitive areas under its control should be watching out."

Police forces in St Paul's, in Bristol, and Brixton, in south London, were on alert last night and in Toxteth, Liverpool, armoured police vehicles were on standby.

Mr Hurd countered suggestions that his visit may have incited the renewed violence yesterday afternoon, saying: "I wonder what people would have said if I had sat fatly at my desk in a situation like this."

The Home Secretary arrived at the top of Lozells Road, scene of the worst looting and arson on Monday, at 1.30pm yesterday. His black Daimler weaved through a crowd of looting, local black youths before dropping him behind a barrier put up to keep back the crowd.

On getting out he went to talk to some of the youths standing four to five deep behind the barrier. As they remonstrated peacefully with him, youths at the back started baying, chanting and jeering.

Moments later, cans, bottles and small stones were hurled at Mr Hurd and his escort of senior police officers and



The view down Lozells Road in Handsworth, where the atmosphere is described as an "uneasy peace".

'I heard screams of victims'

Mr Mirza Mohammed Zaman, a Muslim community leader, told yesterday how he heard the screams for mercy of two brothers, beaten by black rioters in Handsworth and then left to die in the flames of their sub-post office.

Two bodies, believed to be the brothers, were found yesterday morning in the smoking ruins of the sub-post office.

The wife of one of them and a teenager are also thought to have died in the fire, started by petrol-bombers.

Mr Zaman, aged 39, chairman of the Muslim Welfare Defence Council in Handsworth, said: "I was on the street warning Asian families to get out of their shops and homes because I knew someone was going to get killed."

"They were setting petrol bombs through every window."

Mr Zaman was on the pavement opposite the sub-post office when he saw about 10 people, all under 24, smash their way inside.

"I heard someone screaming 'we are innocent, we have got no money, we are all coloured together'."

Rampaging mobs' trail of destruction

Monday seemed a peaceful day in Handsworth, where petty crime and drug-dealing is part of the pattern of life.

The weekend's West Indian carnival was over. Chief Constable Geoffrey Dear had been photographed in the street with dancing West Indian mothers; the community and its guardians felt content that four years of council spending and friendly policing had kept the atmosphere cool. It looked to stay that way.

Even when an Asian shopkeeper was stabbed in the arm at 11.30 am by a West Indian youth, there was no cause for alarm. It was, police say, "par for the course" on Lozells Road where unemployment touches 60 per cent.

Only 12 police officers were on duty - calm, low-profile and covering an area of 200,000 inhabitants. But, at about 5.30 pm a traffic policeman tried to arrest a West Indian suspected of driving a stolen car while disqualified, near the Villa Cross public house at the top of Lozells Road.

It is a dismal spot: run down, with derelict, abandoned buildings, including the disused Villa Cross bingo hall. The public house and the Acapulco cafe

there were raided by the police hunting drug pushers two months ago.

West Indian youths began to threaten and then encircle the traffic policeman, throwing punches, and the car driver escaped. Local youths insisted that the driver had been treated harshly.

Other police arrived and one suffered a broken nose. Two youths were arrested for assault.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, the West Midlands Chief Constable, said: "Some people say this was the flashpoint. I do not think it was. If it had been, we would have expected a demonstration at the police station, but none took place and it remained very calm for another three hours, before the fire brigade was called to a perfectly simple fire at the disused bingo hall."

The bingo hall was opposite the Villa Cross public house and close to the Acapulco. Firemen started unrolling their hoses to tackle the blaze at 7.45 pm. Mr Graham Meldrum, the West Midlands deputy chief fire officer, said: "The officer in charge was approached by a West Indian man who told them not to put the fire out and the indications were that if they did there would be trouble. They came under severe attack by missiles, stones, bottles and then petrol bombs."

One fireman was hit by a brick and knocked out. A fire engine took him to hospital while another fire engine was

damaged by petrol bombs. The crew of a third was diverted to a blazing shop.

The Handsworth riot had begun. The crowd of mainly black youths was rapidly swelling to about 400 and as policemen in protective helmets and carrying shields, arrive in rapid response transit vans, the crowd began to retreat down Lozells Road towards shops owned mainly by Asian families. As they went, they hurled broken concrete blocks at the advancing policemen and the petrol bombs started to curl through the air.

The firemen retreated under the hail of missiles as the crowd down Lozells Road, methodically looting shops and setting them on fire, often in front of their terrified owners.

Some looters piled stolen goods into vans and cars. Other used supermarket trolleys. Parked vehicles in side streets were overturned. Petrol tanks smashed, fuel lines cut and the pouring petrol set ablaze. The burning vehicles, scattered at crazy angles across the streets were used as barricades against police who tried to seal off the area.

Hundreds of petrol bombs were being thrown at the police.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Authority of Owen enhanced

By Philip Webster

Dr David Owen delivers his keynote address to the Social Democratic Party conference today with his authority more firmly entrenched.

A debate yesterday on Alliance strategy, which had arisen from fear among members that the SDP was being seen as moving to the right, resulted in a personal triumph for Dr Owen, an attempt by the Stevenage area party with traditional Labour values was rejected.

Dr Owen has aimed to avoid tying the party to any political label. Yesterday's motion was amended to emphasize the SDP's radical nature but to take out all reference to labels.

In the defence debate, the SDP responded to the Liberal initiative over cruise missiles already stationed in Britain by changing its policy over a nuclear freeze.

Conference reports, page 4
Letters, leading article, page 13

Money levels dampen interest rate hopes

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Rapid growth in the money supply last month appears to have delayed prospects of a cut in bank interest rates. Provisional figures from the Bank of England yesterday show that EM3, one of the two main measures of monetary growth, has moved even further above target, and there are indications that the Government does not want another cut in interest rates just yet.

Last month alone EM3, which measures broad money, jumped by about 2 per cent. That pushed the annual growth rate up to 13.5 per cent compared with the target range of 5 to 9 per cent. The August figures are confusing because M0, the other key measure, which is largely made up just of notes and coins in circulation, is still behaving very well. It has grown by only 4.3 per cent in the last 12 months, comfortably inside the Government's 3 to 7 per cent range.

However, the recent weakness of the pound, which the Government also takes into account in assessing monetary policy, appears to have tipped the balance in favour of a cautious approach to interest rates.

The pound had a better day yesterday, gaining nearly a cent against the dollar in London to close at \$1.3145 and edging up 0.1 to 80 on the sterling index. But this was partly due to rising hopes of lower interest rates in Britain, and the possibility of lower oil prices is still viewed as a factor which could unsettle the pound.

Officials believe that EM3 is to some extent giving misleading signals about the tightness of monetary policy and its growth has been inflated by changes in savings habits. As a result the Government has not been trying to force it rapidly back into the target range.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19

Britain blocks EEC sanctions pact

From Jonathan Braude, Luxembourg

Britain has blocked indefinitely all joint EEC measures to increase trade and cultural sanctions against South Africa despite pressure from the nine other Community countries, Spain and Portugal, to impose embargoes on sales of arms and paramilitary equipment and oil.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, denied after a meeting here to consider the proposals that he had earlier agreed to any of them or to a ban on continued cultural links with Pretoria.

He said he did not want to disrupt the very valuable work with the black population being conducted by the British Council, and called for more time to examine the wording of EEC proposals, which he feared could upset the functioning of British activity in South Africa.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan's gamble to recapture the political initiative on South

Hope for jail Britons as Howe starts Lagos visit

From Nicholas Ashford, Lagos

Shortly after the RAF VC10 carrying Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Minister, landed at Lagos yesterday, two Britons appeared in court a few miles away to give evidence in their own defence against charges which have kept them behind bars for the past 15 months.

Mr Angus Patterson and Mr Kenneth Clark were arrested in July last year and charged with conspiring to steal an aircraft. They have been held in a variety of prisons around Lagos, sometimes in squalid conditions.

Yesterday was the first time the men, both aero-engineers,

had testified in their own defence.

Their plight was one of the first issues Sir Geoffrey raised during the testing round of talks he embarked on soon after arriving.

In the absence of the Nigerian foreign minister - no one has been nominated since last month's coup - his host was Air Commodore Larry Kofayin, a member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council.

In talks with Air Commodore Kofayin and at a meeting with President Babangida, the new head of state, Sir Geoffrey expressed the hope that the trial would be completed as

quickly and equitably as possible.

The Nigerians said they expected it would be over shortly, but justice had to be allowed to take its course.

The case is being heard in a

long, narrow courtroom in a suburb called Ikeja.

Mr Patterson and Mr Clark appeared remarkably composed.

They said conditions in KiriKiri prison were much better than in Ikeja prison, where they were held earlier this year. There, they were with up to 100 prisoners in a cell measuring about 20ft by 12ft. "It was terrible," Mr Clark said. "All we could do was lie on our backs, with feet in each other's faces."

Their food now was adequate but irregular. Their diet was supplemented by food from the British High Commission.

Mr Patterson's cross-examination yesterday took less than two hours.

He said he, and Mr Clark, were asked to service a small aircraft belonging to a British company and piloted by a man he had met when he worked in Scotland five years previously. The two men were arrested after the plane left Nigeria for Ivory Coast without permission. Mr Patterson said he had nothing to do with the plane's unlawful departure.

During yesterday's talks, the Nigerians asked Sir Geoffrey about the state of their extradition proceedings against Mr Umaru Dikko, a former minister, whom the previous administration tried to kidnap from Britain last summer.

THE SICILIAN
The long-awaited return to the world of *The Godfather* by **Mario Puzo**
"Compelling storytelling"
Newsweek
"Even more alluring than the characters who made *The Godfather* a modern-day myth"
New York Daily News
A number one bestseller in America, now available in the U.K. £9.95
BANTAM PRESS

SDP/TORQUAY

Birmingham violence

Nuclear arms freeze

HANDSWORTH

CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Ever since its birth the SDP has suffered from an identity crisis. Should it be essentially a new version of the old Labour Party purged of the extremists which has led the Social Democratic founders to break away? Should it be a centre party floating between the Conservatives and Labour, distinguished principally by its freedom from the failings of either?

If it drifted too far from its old Labour moorings was it in danger of seeming to offer simply a more pleasing form of conservatism... Thatcherism with a human face?

It has been all the more difficult for the party to discuss these questions in reasoned terms because of the personal tensions between Dr David Owen and his predecessor as leader Mr Roy Jenkins. Any suggestion that the party is in danger of concentrating its appeal too much upon disillusioned voters of the Right has been liable to be interpreted as a criticism of the toughness of Dr Owen's economic policies.

Thinly veiled attack on Owen

When Mr Jenkins wrote in the current issue of the magazine *New Democrat* that "post-Thatcher the country will not want a sub-Thatcherite alternative," it was widely seen as a thinly veiled attack upon Dr Owen for leading the party in the wrong direction.

Yet Mrs Shirley Williams was able to claim with some justice yesterday that in the morning conference had stated more clearly than ever before what the party stood for.

There were, to my mind, three principal features of a lively debate. The Social Democrats do not wish to lead Mark II Labour Party. Whereas the original Gang of Four were all former Labour ministers in search of a more congenial political home, many of those who have since joined had not previously belonged to any party at all.

They do not define their politics in relation to traditional Labour values. Not for them the argument that the Labour Party has left them; they have never been in it in the first place.

But they do want the SDP to be a radical, reforming party with a strong social conscience. They do not want it to be defined essentially by what it is not. They are eager to project a positive appeal.

The third feature of the debate was that the personalities were not brought into it. No doubt this was partly the politeness that characterizes the SDP. But there was more to it than that. Dr Owen's leadership was simply not under attack.

The problem for the Social Democrats is not to establish Dr Owen's leadership, but to convince him that it is established. That may seem a strange comment to make of a politician who does not appear to be lacking in self-confidence. Yet too often he reacts in defensive fashion as if he feels a need to impose an authority which everyone else accepts.

Mood changed under Thatcher

The conclusion I draw is that while the SDP will always want to be made to feel that it is a reforming party with a social heart, Dr Owen has freedom to develop his theme of "toughness and tenderness."

I do not go along with Mr Jenkins's claim that "a sub-Thatcherite alternative" because I believe that it will be necessary for any successor government to adjust to the experience of the Thatcher years. The Conservatives would not have ruled for 13 years after the Attlee Labour government, if the Churchill government that was elected in 1951 had failed to adjust to what Attlee had done.

The public mood has changed under Mrs Thatcher and it will be necessary for any successor to pay at least equal regard to economic efficiency. So the task for the SDP now is not to modify the theme of "toughness and tenderness" but to relate the two parts of their theme more effectively to each other.

This does not mean simply talking more about social policy. It means doing more to reconcile SDP social and economic policy so as to show that they are part of a single coherent strategy. This can now be attempted without worrying about the ideological baggage of the past.

DEFENCE POLICY

Freeze on deployment is backed if Geneva nuclear arms talks fail

Reports by Robert Morgan, Derek Barpet and Amanda Haigh

A policy committing the Social Democratic Party to attempt to negotiate a freeze on the further deployment of nuclear weapons if the next round of Geneva disarmament talks failed was adopted yesterday by the party conference in Torquay.

That freeze would include the deployment of cruise missiles at Moleworth, in Cambridgeshire. Mr John Cartwright, their defence spokesman, said at the end of the debate.

The conference rejected a suggestion that Polaris should be scrapped, but reaffirmed its promise to cancel Trident. Mr Cartwright accused Labour of irresponsibility on defence and the Conservatives of trying to keep up with the nuclear Joneses.

Mr John Roper, a former Labour MP for the policy committee, moving endorsement of the document on defence and disarmament, said there were differences of approach between the SDP and Liberal parties, but they were developing together a common basis of analysis of the subjects.

There were areas on which there were differences of opinion in the SDP but was important to emphasize the substantial and significant areas of agreement.

Labour's attitude to the American bases was irresponsible. To throw them out would have a devastating effect on Britain's relations with America, Nato, and Europe.

Alliance policy emphasized the need to strengthen conventional defence and reduce the reliance on "early use" of nuclear weapons in Nato. They were against "no first use" because that would increase the risk of attack. A "no early use" policy would reduce substantially the risk of using nuclear weapons, but not the risk of a war, and ultimately nuclear war.

Britain could not afford Trident. The Alliance opposed that cuckoo-in-the-nest in the defence budget.

Central to the reduction of conventional and nuclear weapons by both sides was the success of the Geneva negotiations. The Alliance hoped they would rule out the need for further cruise missiles in Western Europe and permit withdrawal of those deployed. If any had to remain it was essential to have a dual key.

Mr Frank Moses, prospective parliamentary candidate for Dunfermline West, moved an amendment emphasizing the need to obtain value for money in defence equipment procurement and rejecting the commercial agency management scheme for the royal dockyards in favour of restoring a unified structure under Ministry of Defence control.

Mr John Hancock, from Edinburgh, moved an amendment substituting "no first use" for "no early use."

Mr Richard Gravil, from Devon, moved an amendment calling for an Alliance government to cancel Trident immediately and, in a hung parliament, to insist on cancellation.

Hilary Campbell, for the central area party, moved an amendment providing for the maintenance of Polaris and, if in government the SDP considered it necessary to retain Polaris beyond its extended lifespan, the party would examine ways of replacing it with a nuclear weapon system not posing more than a retaliatory threat or hindering arms control negotiations.

On deploying cruise at Moleworth, Mr Cartwright said the Soviet Union had returned to the negotiating table despite saying it would not use Nato reversed the deployment. If they said there would be no preparation for deployment there would be no incentive to the Soviet Union to go to the talks. Cruise was not to be deployed until 1988.

The conference accepted an amendment, which Mr Cartwright supported, saying there should be a negotiated freeze on the deployment of nuclear weapons if the next round of talks failed.

The proposal for a radical review of defence spending and large cuts was rejected.

Mr John Cartwright, MP for Woolwich, replying for the policy committee, successfully urged the acceptance of the dockyards amendment. The Government's proposals were based on narrow ideology. "We will fight the Heseline plans every inch of the way in Parliament," he said.

The conference rejected the amendment on "no first use" of nuclear weapons. Mr Cartwright said it committed the party to an important change in policy which they should not adopt before they had developed and strengthened conventional defence forces.

He asked the mover to remit the amendment because it would commit the party there and then to deciding what was a negotiating aim in a hung parliament.

He successfully urged the rejection of the amendment on the future of the British deterrent. They were eager to put Polaris into the negotiating pot, but if they were to negotiate about a wasting asset, saying they would not replace it, there would be no incentive to the Soviet Union to reach an early decision. The amendment would leave party policy vague.

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Leading article, letters, page 13

Mr Cartwright: Promise to cancel Trident

Margot Hutchinson, from Birmingham, moved an amendment, which was lost, opposing further deployment of cruise at Moleworth. The party did not urge the return of those already in Britain.

Mr Tom McNally, a former Labour MP, from Tower Hamlets, moved an amendment proposing that if the next round of negotiations failed to achieve

PARTY IMAGES

Party to push its radical line



Miss Slipman: 'Policies too academic'

The SDP is failing to create sufficient public awareness of its radical dimension of its policies, delegates decided after an impassioned debate on the party's image.

They unanimously backed a motion calling for a change in presentation to overcome this failure in preparation for the next general election.

The amended motion emphasized policies which combine realism and a new direction in the economic sphere with compassion and an understanding of the needs and aspirations of all citizens and a commitment to an open, classless, non-racist and more equal society.

The original motion had confirmed the party's original objective to become, on the centre left of politics, the eventual main challenger to the Conservatives, taking over many of the traditional values, and voters, of the Labour Party.

It called for greater attention on policy presentation to promoting the party as one of radical social and constitutional reform.

The only part of the motion

to be retained however, was a section expressing concern that the Alliance was relying too much on protest votes to win elections.

Mr Ben Stoneham, prospective parliamentary candidate for Stevenage, moving the original motion, said it was not an attack on Dr David Owen, the party leader. It was time to debate election strategy in the run-up to the general election.

The Stevenage strategy for winning working class support was working and must be applied more widely.

Miss Sue Slipman, for the national council, advised the conference to accept the amendment.

A former communist, she was cheered when she joined the SDP not because she had reneged on her class but because she wanted those people to have the same opportunities and privileges she had.

If there was criticism of the SDP it was perhaps that its policies were still too academic for the stomachs and minds of the millions who had to be convinced that they should vote for the Alliance.



Mrs Williams delivering her presidential address at the Torquay conference yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Williams condemns stoning of Hurd

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP's president, yesterday condemned the stoning of Mr Douglas Hurd, the new Home Secretary, in the streets of Handsworth and commended him for his brave act in going so quickly to the scene of the riots.

"I have just heard he has been stoned in the streets of Handsworth and we as a party would want to make it plain we could in no way condone a slide towards such behaviour whatever the strength of political feeling may be," Mrs Williams said in her presidential address.

In our inner cities and our old industrial areas many families feel abandoned by the politicians. Ask the single parent families, the council house tenants, the terrified Asian shopkeepers of Handsworth and east London, she said. Ours is becoming in some areas an ugly society, the irresistible consequence of a large minority abandoned to long-term unemployment and declining living standards. The underclass, so long prophesied, is now emerging, alienated from the rest of society, bored, menacing and without hope.

The riots that have erupted in Handsworth demonstrate what will happen to our once

ordered country if that despair is not dealt with. It is no use insisting on being a Government of law and order if one does not tackle the underlying circumstances that make policing by consent virtually impossible.

The SDP's heart was with those left out of society, excluded from Mrs Thatcher's brave new world: the old, dependent on inadequate community care, the homeless and unemployed, the unwanted angry kids who have brought South Africa to the streets of Handsworth.

She was criticized in the media for being an old Labour hack recycled for SDP purposes and having sympathies with traditional Labour values. Yes, she did. To her, traditional Labour values meant social justice, greater equality, a determination to tackle racial discrimination and poverty, the sources of despair and violence in the inner cities as Handsworth has demonstrated again. The Labour Party had fallen short of its own traditional values, and those values themselves had been changed out of all recognition.

Mrs Williams received a prolonged standing ovation.

RACIAL TENSION

Policies lead to 'despair and law-breaking'

The rioting in Birmingham was an example of what happened when government failed to recognize the despair being created among young people and ethnic citizens, Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, told the assembly.

"What this says loud and clear is that to talk of being a Government of law and order when one's own policies create despair and the breaking of the law is not an adequate response to the problems that our country faces," she said to loud applause.

In a debate on race relations and racial disadvantage, in which most speakers were Asian or West Indian, Dr Francis Bridger, of Nottingham, co-author of a pamphlet on racial

justice, said the discussion was taking place under a sad and sombre cloud. The events in Birmingham showed the need for clear thinking. It was four years since violence last erupted.

The hopes of ethnic minorities, raised for a moment by the exertions of Mr Heseltine, then Secretary of State for the Environment, had started to subside to a point where there was little hope left.

Mr Roy Evans, of the national committee, replying to the debate, was cheered when he said "I speak not as a black social democrat but as a social democrat who is black."

Mr Evans, co-author of the pamphlet on racial justice, said the creeping assault on civil

Demand for immediate inquiry into riot

A call for an immediate judicial public inquiry into the causes of the Handsworth disturbances was called for by SDP members.

They passed unanimously an emergency resolution from Mr Joe Binn, from Birmingham, calling on the Government to establish the inquiry and noting the attack on the Home Secretary yesterday.

Mr Binn was saddened by "these appalling events". He did not know the cause but said no amount of good policing could "keep the lid on a boiling cauldron of discontent in our inner cities today and in the rural areas tomorrow".

The inquiry should say how many young whites, blacks and Asians did not have work and how many were in work. The figures would appal the nation and might even shock Mrs Thatcher.

"Let the inquiry tell us about the housing conditions in Handsworth and the hopelessness there. But let it above all establish the truth without any cover-up," Mr Binn said.

Jackie Horne, of Essex Central, said: "I wonder we have violence in our society. Mrs Thatcher in the last year has shown the miners the fist, the unemployed the door and the boot, the teachers two fingers and the electorate a deaf ear." After all the previous riots the Government had not ensured a strategy to tackle such eruptions humanely and immediately.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the party president, said the SDP was a party of law and order and recognized the achievement of policing by unarmed policemen which was possible because of the consent of the community. But it was that relationship of consent which might so easily be put at risk.

The inquiry should go to the roots of what lay behind the riot so that this would not occur again and should say it was not sufficient merely to call on community leaders to discipline their members as Mrs Thatcher had just done.

The call for a judicial inquiry came earlier during the police and policy debate. Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland and party spokesman on home affairs, said: "We must seek to avoid a recurrence of such inhuman violence in our cities."

He successfully moved a motion stating that the balance between the freedom of the individual and the need to protect him from violence had been endangered by organized intimidation such as occurred during the miners' strike and by the violence of football hooligans. The motion also suggested improved and extended police training and the establishment of a new standing commission.

Mr Evans: 'No political ghettos' call

rights from the Thatcher Government must be rooted out. Race relations must be brought into the political mainstream. There must be no political ghettos in the SDP.

He did not want to see the creation of inner city no-go areas which blacks felt unable to leave and whites felt unable to enter.

CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

It is a pity she's a politician. If she were not it would be easier to cocoon her in compliments. Nonetheless Shirley Williams is a real trooper. In between massive stints in the chair at the SDP conference, she makes speeches, flits into the television studio, and attempts to play cricket.

Of the four roles the one that suits her least is the game-playing nonsense. She looked daft prancing around a penny cricket pitch trying to catch balls off David Owen's bat, dressed in garb more suited to a house painter on a cold day.

But it's what the cameras want... "Stand up Shirley..." "Crouch down, Shirley..." "Come nearer the wicket Shirley..." the well-drilled actress performed the lot while the doctor elegantly exercised his dimples.

After which she went away, re-wrote her speech - much of it had nothing to do with the advance text - which generously embraced references to many other conference speakers and earned her the warmest of standing ovations. One Swedish diplomat said that he was unhappy to see the SDP succumb to this peculiarly British habit which apparently has not been a feature of previous conferences. But the president of the party earned hers not least for drawing together a muddled morning.

Any individual who starts asking Who am I? and What am I? is best advised to do it in private and to reveal the results only if he considers he can make a mint from a by-your-own-analyst bestseller. For a political party to attempt to answer the Who am I/What am I in public was bound to make us feel like voyeurs at a Californian group therapy session.

That's how we got a muddled morning out of the now famous Stevenage motion designed to hunt the SDP firmly into a spotlight labelled Centre Left of the political stage.

After an hour or more fumbling for an image for a vote-winning definition for a party that wants to create an open, classless, non-racist and more equal society, it might have been much simpler to have employed what psychiatrists call the ink-blot test.

Williams finds a formula

The chair could have called for silence and asked the entire conference to stare at the letters SDP which surround the ball. The S and the P are in blue and the D is in red and the three are underlined in red. Question: What do you make of that mixture. A Socialist centre with Tory edges?

Shirley Williams found a formula. She said that the SDP's heart is with those left out of our society, those excluded from Mrs Thatcher's brave new world, the old, the homeless and unemployed, the unwanted angry kids who brought South Africa to the streets of Handsworth. The underclass.

Her SDP would represent the traditional values and concerns which had attracted her to the Labour Party all those years ago.

Linda Christmas

Law centre vote

The conference passed an emergency resolution affirming the party's support for law centres and deploring the Lord Chancellor's refusal to finance their continuing existence.

Today's business

The main business of this, the final, day is the address by Dr David Owen, the party leader.

Close ranks call to EEC car makers

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A British motor industry leader yesterday urged EEC car manufacturers to stop fighting among themselves and close ranks in the sales war being waged between the world's trading blocks.

Speaking in Frankfurt, West Germany, on the eve of the motor show, Mr Harry Hooper, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "We are a European industry and only as a European industry do we have any hope of surviving against the other trading blocks."

"Let's make no bones about it. We are fighting a war, an international trade war, and we must at all costs try to prevent that war from taking place in the common market itself," he said.

"In recent years thanks to high levels of unemployment, over-capacity throughout the EEC and political pressures in individual member States we have come under increasing pressure to start fighting each other instead of the common enemies."

"We must remember that we are an economic community and be more conscious of the damage which go-it-alone policies can inflict on our viability as a European industry."

Mr Hooper highlighted price controls, discriminatory taxation and "ill-conceived proposals on emission control in response to local pressures," as examples of how governments caused chaos in the industry.

His comment on emission controls was aimed at the West German government. On the eve of the Frankfurt Motor Show two years ago, it dropped a bombshell by announcing proposals to introduce unilaterally tough anti-pollution measures to prevent the wholesale destruction of the country's forests.

West German motor manufacturers protested that this would lead to a trade war with their European partners, and the federal authorities modified their demands to permit the Community to prepare an accelerated clean exhaust programme.

It comes into operation next year in spite of a rear-guard action by British car makers. They claim it will increase the price of a family car by about £600 and favour West German companies which already build cars equipped with exhaust converters for the American market.



The MG EX-E, with a projected top speed of 170mph

Austin Rover made a bid for the limelight at the Frankfurt Motor Show yesterday by unveiling a 170 mph MG sports car of the future with a revolutionary type of body construction. (Our Motoring Correspondent writes)

The aluminium "space frame" chassis is held together with glue instead of the traditional welding process and covered with a plastic two seat body made of injection moulded panels.

It is powered by a three-litre V-6 valves all aluminium engine and four wheel drive transmission used in the company's new World Rally

Championship contender, the MG Metro 6R4.

The company's stand was crowded when Mr Harold Masgrave Austin Rover chairman, lifted the bright red dust cover of the MG EX-E to reveal one of the best-kept secrets in the motor industry.

The streamlined body has a drag coefficient of 0.24, compared with the 0.29 of the best current designs. It will accelerate from 0 to 62 mph in less than five seconds.

Doors open using a credit card "key" which responds only to the driver's personal code.

Judge given ban on drink charge

Alexander Morrison, aged 57, a Midland circuit judge, was fined £150 and banned from driving for 12 months by magistrates at Glossop, Derbyshire, yesterday after he admitted driving with excess alcohol.

He was found to have 117mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood, the court was told.

He was also fined for speeding.

Real Lives date

The controversial *Real Lives* television documentary on Ulster extremism, "At the Edge of the Union", has been scheduled for transmission on BBC1 on October 16, at 9.25 p.m. the Corporation announced yesterday.

Murder charge

David George Adams, aged 37, a shopowner, of Ashley Road, Parkstone, Dorset, was remanded in custody for a week when he appeared before magistrates in Poole yesterday, charged with the murder of Claire Stagg, aged nine.

Demand grows for sheep milk products

By John Young, Agricultural Correspondent

A promotion of British sheep milk products at Harrods this week throws the spotlight on a swiftly growing market.

Although sheep milk has been consumed in small quantities for generations, it is less than two years since the British Sheep Dairying Association was formed. There are now more than 100 milking flocks, ranging from five to 250 ewes.

One of the attractions for farmers is that sheep, like goat milk, is not subject to quota restrictions. But the main stimulus is an apparently insatiable demand, not just from shops in Britain but from export markets including Greece, Italy, France, Lebanon, and the Gulf states.

According to Mrs Olivia Mills, the association's secretary, British production could well double every year for the next 10 years.

A dairy flock requires relatively small capital investment and, as well as supplementing incomes from lamb and wool, offers an opportunity to young farmers of limited means.

Sheep milk is rich and creamy, and particularly popular with health food enthusiasts and allergy sufferers. Although it is retailed in liquid form in cartons, most of it is processed into cheese and yoghurt.

Prices are at present well above those paid by the Milk Marketing Board for cows' milk, and so compensate for the lack of a guaranteed market. The association is recommending its members to ask about 50p a pint retail.

The Hill Farming Research Organization, near Edinburgh, has begun an experimental breeding programme to examine the possibility of raising goats on hill farms to yield commercial quantities of cashmere fibre.

Farmers' organizations in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and north-west England have asked the Government for special aid for hill farmers faced with severe shortages of fodder as a result of the wet summer.

The Farmers' Union of Wales has described the harvest as the worst in memory. Hay prices have soared to their highest level for years, and many plough crops have been ruined.

Manchester United can sell drink at 19 bars

By Michael Horsnell

An exemption from the alcohol ban at sports grounds was granted yesterday to Manchester United, the most heavily supported club in the country.

A special magistrates' sitting in Manchester decided that alcohol may be sold at the ground in 19 public bars and some private and executive areas.

But after visiting the Old Trafford headquarters of the club as part of the three-hour hearing, the magistrates decided bars in sight of the pitch should not be allowed to open.

The decision, covered by provisions for exemption under the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Act, introduced earlier this year to combat football violence, is regarded by some Opposition MPs as a failure in Mrs Thatcher's strategy to restore order to football grounds.

But the application by Manchester United and many other clubs to local magistrates for exemption is defended by the Government.

The Home Office says that clubs are simply taking advantage of an intended element of flexibility at grounds where there is a record of good crowd behaviour.

The magistrates made their decision after studying architects' plans and heard the club's solicitor, Mr Anthony Healey, argue that the exemptions should be granted because of the club's record.

There had been no arrests and only one person ejected from the ground during the first four home games this season, he said. The police and Greater Manchester Council made no objection to the application.

Aston Villa and Oxford United of the First Division, and Hull City of the second, also made successful applications for exemptions yesterday.

Meanwhile, the vexed question of identity cards for football fans seems to be meeting a more relaxed attitude from the Government.

Mr Richard Tracey, the new Minister for Sport, is expected

to consider a Football League scheme for club membership cards at a meeting tomorrow aimed at combating football hooliganism.

League chiefs will today consider a working party's report into the scheme before presenting it to the minister.

The league's management committee expected to approve the report which would require changes in the Football League's regulations.

It proposes that at least 50 per cent of the spectator areas in football grounds should be restricted to card-holders in the First and Second Divisions to start with.

Spectators who hold cards could attend fixtures at clubs other than their own, and people without cards could attend at any ground in the unrestricted terraces and stands. But attendance at all-ticket matches, so designated because there are fears of disturbance, would be limited to card-holders.

A new Public Order Bill, to be included in the Queen's Speech, will meanwhile give magistrates powers to ban hooligans from football grounds.

Although opposition is expected from some club chairmen, anxious about the cost of implementing the scheme, the plan is thought to be a better financial alternative than banning away supporters.

TV sports change

Former footballers Jimmy Greaves and Ian St John will have their own show when ITV sports gets a new look at the weekends.

They will present sports coverage on Saturdays from next month when *World of Sport* comes off the screen after 20 years.

They will present the *Saturday Sports* show, a 25-minute look at football and other sports with leading sports people as studio guests.

Their show will be followed by 45 minutes of wrestling, then sport will go off the air for half an hour to make way for a thriller series.

MPs seek details of foreign aid

By Stephen Goodwin

Parliament's public spending watchdog, the committee of public accounts, wants the Government to give more information to MPs on its plans for overseas aid.

The committee, in a report published yesterday, is concerned that successive ministers for overseas development have refused to let the foreign affairs committee see figures in the Aid Framework, even in confidence.

The framework apportions overseas aid funds for each of the next three years between multilateral and bilateral aid, between regions and between each main recipient country, institution or special programme.

Parliament is given aid information annually in the supply estimates for 1985-86 the Overseas Development Administration was allocated £1.130 billion, but not in the detail contained in the framework.

The accounts committee, which has an inbuilt Conservative majority, is not satisfied with an administration assurance that additional supporting information is to be given with the supply estimates.

Fears for future of EEC because of farm policy

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The future of the EEC is under threat because of the massive financial burden imposed by the common agricultural policy, a House of Lords select committee said yesterday.

In a report the peers said that the policy, which will cost £12 billion this year and accounts for about 70 per cent of the Community budget, could break down if left unchanged and place the EEC in jeopardy. Reform is "imperative", but the chief obstacle is lack of political will, the select committee on European Communities added.

The policy had been "outstandingly successful" in increasing food supplies, but the hunger of the post-war years had been replaced by embarrassing "mountains" and "lakes" of unwanted food.

Prison sex charges

Two prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs jail, Shepherd's Bush, west London, accused of sexual offences involving inmates, appeared on remand at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday and were committed for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

John Hibberd, aged 44, and John Cox, aged 30, who both gave the prison as their address, are charged with attempting to procure the commission by one prisoner of an act of gross indecency with another between November 1 and December 31 last year.

Mr Hibberd faces three other summonses under the Sexual Offences Act, 1956, involving the same prisoners.

Thai coup plotters allowed to flee

From Paul Routledge Bangkok

The Thai Government yesterday set up an inquiry to determine the extent of military complicity in Monday's abortive coup that left five dead and 60 injured.

In a significant shift from previous attitudes of "live and let live" towards Army officers who try to seize power, the Government has made it known that this time there would be no general pardon for the rebels.

The Interior Minister, General Sittthi Chirarot, said: "We have a list of people who joined in the coup bid, and some of them might have claimed to have been forced into joining it. But the past has taught us a lesson."

Military sources disclosed last night however, that the two key conspirators, Colonel Manoon Roopkachorn and his younger brother, Wing Commander Manas Roopkachorn, had been allowed to slip out of the country within hours of the collapse of their botched attempt to seize power.

The brothers, with two aides, were taken in an Air Force light plane to Singapore en route to any destination of their choice. Allowing them to flee, it was argued, brought the coup attempt to a swift end and prevented further casualties. It also bought freedom for the Air Force Commander, air chief marshal Praphan Dhuphatameeya.

Colonel Manoon, aged 50, also engineered the April 1981 Day coup attempt in 1981, which lasted only 55 hours. He was cashiered but later pardoned. After his



The Thai Supreme Commander, General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, visiting a soldier wounded in the coup attempt.

second abortive plot to overthrow the coalition government of the Prime Minister, General Prem Tinsulanonda, influential voices are being raised in favour of a tougher line with dissident officers.

The inquiry will seek to establish whether a number of high-ranking former officers

whether (as some of them say) they were coerced into joining.

Among them are the former Supreme Commander, General Sarn Na Nakhorn, former Prime Minister, General Kriangsak Chomsanan, and General Yos Thephasadin.

Bangkok was practically back to normal after the brief but bloody encounter between the rebels and soldiers loyal to the government. Only at the radio station of the First Division was there testimony to the tank and small arms fire that killed two Western television cameramen, two loyalist soldiers and the woman occupant of a passing taxi. Several hundred people gathered to watch clearing-up work.

As more details of the coup attempt emerged, it was clear that it did not enjoy serious backing in the armed forces, who remained loyal in response to broadcast appeals from the Supreme Commander, General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, not to join the 500-strong rebels. They came from Colonel Manoon's former regiment, the Fourth Cavalry Battalion, and the Royal Thai Air Force security troops, of which his brother is a former commander.

With defeat unavoidable, the rebel leader negotiated with his former military teacher, Lieutenant-General Pichit Kullavanijaya, for the surrender of his men and his own safe passage out of the country.

Colonel Manoon had been put under pressure to quit Thailand so that the group of Young Turk officers at the heart of Army dissent could be disbanded.

Leading article, page 13

Russians forced to learn theory for lack of computers

From Richard Owen Moscow

With the new academic year in Russia barely under way the Kremlin's much vaunted computer literacy programme is foundering because of an acute shortage of computer equipment for teaching purposes.

The programme, under which computer familiarization courses are being introduced in secondary schools throughout the Soviet Union, was conceived under the late President Chernenko but has been enthusiastically taken up by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. It is a fundamental part of his drive to modernize Soviet society and produce a new generation of Soviet managers and administrators familiar with modern technology.

A report from Novosibirsk in Siberia in the newspaper *Trud* this week revealed that most schools still do not have a single computer for pupils to learn on, let alone the 20 or so needed for a properly organized computer class. Novosibirsk, the news-

paper pointed out, is the centre of the Siberian Academy of Sciences, where some of Russia's leading scientific expertise is concentrated, and schools are able to transport pupils to computer training centres.

But in less favoured areas the solution is "the computerless study of computer theory". *Trud* said. "Many Russians think 'computer' means pocket calculator."

The Soviet authorities have shown interest in the Western computer market, but remain reluctant to make the educational system dependent on imported Western technology.

There are reports that the Russians may turn to Japan rather than to America or Western Europe to fill the computer gap. According to business sources here, Yamaha of Japan have negotiated a contract to supply 4,000 microcomputers for Russian schools.

Moro aide in tax trial

Rome - A Turin magistrate has committed for trial on tax evasion charges 123 people including Signor Sereno Freato, private secretary of the late Christian Democrat leader, Aldo Moro, who was killed by the Red Brigades in 1978. Others include the president of Sampdoria, the Genoa first division football club and the

former Commanders of the Guardia di Finanza anti-fraud police. (John Earle writes). They are accused of defrauding the state of more than 300 billion lira (£120 million) by speculating in the 1970s on the tax differential between petrol and other refined oil products destined for the chemical industry.

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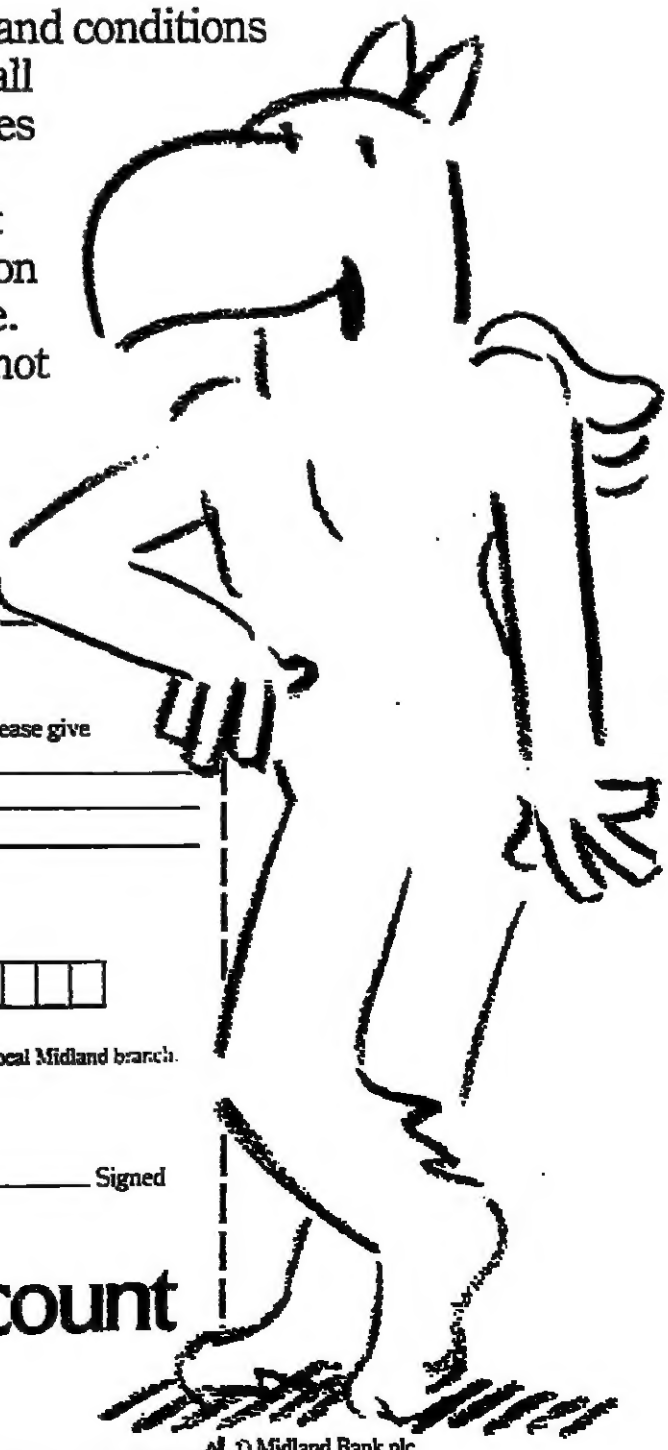
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Petra Kelly and Greens stage embassy sit-in in Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Eight members of the small West German opposition party, the Greens, "occupied" their country's embassy in Pretoria yesterday and said they would stay there for 48 hours to advertise their opposition to apartheid.

Earlier, they had issued a statement calling for a West German economic boycott of South Africa, and urging Bonn to put pressure on Pretoria to lift the state of emergency, release all political prisoners, and allow exiled South Africans to return home.

Some of the Greens inside the embassy are Bundestag deputies, and include the party's best known figure, Frau Petra Kelly.

The South African Foreign Minister, Mr. Pik Botha, said he had asked the South African Ambassador in Bonn to protest to Bonn about the "improper use" of diplomatic passports by the West German deputies.

Meanwhile, government and business reaction here to the limited American sanctions announced on Monday by President Reagan has been one of relief that tougher measures proposed by the US congress seem to have been averted, coupled with concern that the sanctions could be stiffened in the future.

Mr. Barnd du Plessis, the Minister of Finance, acknowledged that the Reagan measures were "as advantageous as they possibly could have been" in the circumstances, but said they might still cause "fear and

Moscow offer on chemical weapons

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday said the Soviet Union was prepared to "guarantee and respect the status" of a chemical weapons-free zone in central Europe, provided the US did the same.

He made his offer in talks with Herr Johannes Rau, who is tipped as the next leader of the West German Social Democrats, and a possible chancellor. Accompanying officials said the SPD first raised the idea of a chemical weapons-free zone in talks with East German officials earlier this year.

Herr Rau is visiting Moscow as part of a campaign to give him foreign policy experience before the German elections in two years' time.

Diplomats said it was obvious the Russians also saw Herr Rau as a rising political star, since his treatment went beyond what his status as Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia would normally justify.

Mr Gorbachev, who has repeatedly emphasized the importance of Russia's ties with Western Europe as well as with America, said Europe's "vast historical experience" of co-operation between states should be "not only cherished but multiplied".

He reiterated Soviet disarmament proposals, including Soviet support for the Palme Commission's idea of a nuclear free-corridor between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Gorbachev said Russians harboured no hostility towards West Germans. Diplomats however have seen the recent renewal of Soviet attacks on the alleged "revanchism" of Chancellor Kohl's government as a negative element in Moscow-Bonn relations. "Revanchism" refers to a desire to regain German territories lost after the Second World War.

● WASHINGTON: In a clear change of approach towards the November US-Soviet summit, the Vice-President, Mr George Bush, said yesterday that the Administration wanted the Geneva meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev to reflect as much substantive achievement as possible (Moshin Ali writes).

More importantly, it should produce a programme to reduce tensions between the superpowers, he said in Manhattan, Kansas.

Cheers and tears greet the last detainees



Prisoners freed from Atlit arriving to a welcome from Muslim clerics in Tyre, south Lebanon.

Broken Amal 'promises' mar homecoming

From Robert Fisk, Tyre

They sat in the back of the International Red Cross car, a young Palestinian with dark hair and an old one-eyed man with a white beard, both wearing the blue track suits in which the Israelis had released them, both glancing fearfully from the windows at the Shia Muslim Amal gunmen who swarmed along the roadway.

The two men had already been dragged once from their bus at Ras al-Bayda, only to be rescued by the Red Cross.

Of the 119 prisoners released from Atlit camp by the Israelis yesterday - the last of the detainees held without trial in Israel whose freedom had been demanded by the hijackers of the TWA jet last June - 83 were Lebanese, mostly Shias, and 36 Palestinians.

Shia Muslim Amal gunmen had tried to drag Lebanese as well as Palestinians from the buses as alleged collaborators only minutes after the Israelis had cut the metal and plastic "clamps" from their wrists.

"You broke the agreement we had with you," a senior Red Cross delegate shouted at one blue-shirted Amal militiaman with a pistol in his belt who stood truculently in Tyre's main square.

"We had an agreement with David David (the Amal leader in southern Lebanon) that you would not touch these people. You broke your promise. You have ruined everything."

The gunman smiled weakly and shrugged his shoulders. Shia "justice", it seemed, took precedence over Red Cross promises.

The Red Cross think - and only think - that their charges

were all returned to them. But many newly-released prisoners hurried themselves into the arms of their families the moment they left the Israeli buffer zone in southern Lebanon and it was impossible for the Red Cross to watch every one of them.

Some were given American-made M16 rifles and hoisted aboard cars where they shouted that they would fight Israel again. Others simply clung to wives and mothers, weeping uncontrollably.

One man stood in the very centre of Tyre's main street clutching his brother and crying on his shoulder for almost five minutes.

"Atlit prison is now empty," the senior Red Cross delegate in Tyre announced later. "There are no more prisoners to come."

The last 119 men included

many Hezbollah "Party of God" members opposed to Amal and several of them later marched through the centre of Sidon, arm in arm with turbaned mullahs.

Several men complained that they had been mistreated by the Israelis. One Palestinian in the bus bringing him from Tyre had other matters on his mind, aware of the battles between Amal and the PLO in Beirut, he shouted at a Shia gunman from the window: "Prepare your football team - because we are going to beat you."

In the aftermath of this last release, the French Government is hoping that at least two and perhaps all four of the French hostages held by Islamic Jihad in Lebanon will be freed. For the seven Americans held captive here, however, any hope of freedom seems much further away.

Karpov earns an easy draw

By Raymond Keene

After his three-day rest, the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, held an easy draw yesterday in the third game of the world chess championship in Moscow.

The champion resorted to his favourite defence, the Queen's Gambit declined, and after just 15 moves grandmaster experts were already predicting that the game would end in a draw.

Karpov pondered for 30 minutes over his 16th move, B-QN1, in an attempt to align his queen and bishop for a mating attack against the black king. However, Karpov parried this efficiently enough with 17... P-KN3 and Karpov's subsequent breakthrough in the centre on move 18 merely led to an exchange of pieces and clear equality.

Karpov offered the draw, which was accepted. By this game the world champion appears to have demonstrated that he has overcome the bout of nerves which adversely affected his play during the first two rounds.

The fourth game will be played tomorrow.

● In the play-off for the candidates' reserve position at the London Docklands Museum, the Soviet grandmaster Viktor Gavrilov and the Dutch grandmaster John van der Wiel have so far drawn both of their games.

Their third game is today.

Third game

White Karpov, Black Karpov

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	P-K4	N-K3	2	P-Q4	P-K3
3	N-K3	P-Q4	4	N-B3	B-K3
5	B-N2	P-N3	6	B-N2	B-P2
7	Q-N2	P-Q3	8	P-K3	P-Q2
9	R-Q1	C-Q	10	B-Q2	P-Q2
11	P-P	B-P2	12	P-K4	P-P
13	B-P	R-H1	14	Q-Q	P-Q1
15	K-R1	B-Q2	16	B-N1	B-N2
17	Q-Q	P-Q3	18	B-P	P-P
19	N-QP	B-N	20	R-B	K-R1
21	Draw				

Province urges ending of ban on Indian settlers

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The provincial branch of South Africa's ruling National Party in the Orange Free State is urging the Government to lift a ban on the settlement of Indians and Chinese in the province.

A statute dating back to the last century and the days of the independent Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, prohibits trade, farming or the owning of property by "Arabs, Chinese, coolies or any other Asians."

The decision in favour of scrapping the statute was approved by all but six of 458 delegates attending the provincial congress in Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State.

The law has continued to be enforced even though, since the introduction of a new constitution a year ago, Indians, together with Coloureds, can now be Members of Parliament, although sitting in segregated chambers.

The decision in favour of scrapping the statute was approved by all but six of 458 delegates attending the provincial congress in Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State.

Amnesty for Golan extremist

Jerusalem - President Herzog of Israel has accepted his Justice Minister's recommendation that one of the members of the Jewish terrorist underground be granted clemency. (David Bernstein writes).

Mr Uri Meir, aged 37, was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment with another 18 months suspended, for his part in a 1980 attack on three

prominent West Bank mayors.

He was due to return yesterday to his home at Ramat Maghshim in the Golan Heights, six months before becoming eligible for parole.

The Justice Minister, Mr Moshe Nissim, wrote in his recommendation that Mr Meir had openly expressed remorse for his actions. He also cited his poor health, the difficult circumstances of his family and

the fact that he was a prominent and highly respected personality among settlers in the Golan Heights.

Mr Nissim said yesterday's decision boded neither well nor ill for three other members of the underground.

He repeated on an interview on Israel Radio that the president would treat each case on its merits.

Former Amin troops may join fight against rebels

Former soldiers from Idi Amin's Army could be used to fight rebel forces of the National Resistance Army, a Ugandan minister said in London yesterday (Richard Dowden writes).

Mr Dent Lakidi Ocaaya, Minister of Local Government, said that the soldiers, who have recently returned from Sudan, "are prepared to act together in

the interests of all Uganda. If you want to interpret that as being prepared to fight the NRA, that is logical but it would only come about if the NRA is not for peace."

The soldiers, who were driven out of Uganda in 1979 when Amin was overthrown, have been returning to the capital in recent weeks.

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Tough stance likely from Pinochet amid opposition moves for full democracy

From Douglas Tweedale, Santiago

President Pinochet of Chile, who today marks his twelfth year in power, is facing what most observers see as his most serious challenge from the civilian opposition, though politicians warn not to expect quick results.

A broad spectrum of political parties, ranging from the extreme right to the socialist left, has united for the first time since General Pinochet seized power in a bloody 1973 coup which ousted the elected leftist president, Señor Salvador Allende, and has presented a broad-based proposal for a gradual, negotiated transition to democracy.

Diplomats say that the National Accord for a Transition to Full Democracy, signed late in August by 11 political parties, is "aimed at reducing potential democrats" in the armed forces to accept that a reasonable alternative to military is possible.

"The opposition have finally realized they will have to negotiate with this Government," one Western European diplomat said.

The National Accord, worked out under Catholic Church auspices, calls for a gradual

return to full democracy, with the immediate lifting of political restrictions for elections for the Congress and Presidency in the middle term, and for a possible plebiscite to reform the Constitution instituted by General Pinochet in 1981.

But Señor Sergio Navarrete, a socialist leader who signed the Accord, says that its most significant asset is its moderation, which has attracted a handful of right-wing parties which had previously supported the military. "Pinochet is losing his political base," he said.

The National Accord does not call for General Pinochet to step down immediately, says that the signatories will respect private property and private enterprise, and includes a pledge not to put on trials against military leaders for human rights crimes committed while they were in power.

The parties to the Accord have also been careful to distance themselves from the violence which last week marked anti-Government protests in which ten people died in gunfire.

Government officials have tried to suggest that some leftist parties are not quite as democratic as they claim to be, by

linking them with widespread looting and protests organized by the far left.

General Pinochet is expected to respond today to the political parties in a 90 minute speech marking the anniversary of the coup which brought him to power. Political sources say he will also probably take a tough stance against civilian leaders whom the Government accuses of inciting last week's violence.

Some trade union leaders and neighbourhood organizers have been brought to trial for their leadership of a one-day protest on Wednesday last week which brought Santiago to a virtual standstill.

The Accord, which one diplomat called "the most significant political event here in years", comes at a time when General Pinochet is facing mounting public discontent and hints of a schism within the security forces.

An opinion poll at the weekend said that 58.6 per cent of the people feel that General Pinochet's Government has done a "terrible" job, with a further 26.8 per cent feeling it has done a "bad" job. Fewer than 15 per cent described the Government as good or middling.



Students in New York protest with placards at a decision to allow a second-grade pupil who has the disease Aids to attend one of the city's public schools.

Barbie trial delayed by inquiries

Lyons (AP) - The Lyons Court of Appeals has ordered further investigations into one of three charges laid against the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie.

The trial of Barbie, aged 72, known here as "The Butcher of Lyons" for his Second World War activities, had been expected to open in November, but is now likely to be postponed to January next year.

The court ruled that further work was needed on the charge of sequestration, deportation and complicity in the murder of 308 Jews sent to German concentration camps.

Casualties mount in Afghan war

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The guerrilla war in Afghanistan has reached a new peak of intensity as Mujahidin rebels and Russian and Afghan forces battle for control of vital supply routes into the east of the country from Pakistan.

After successful Soviet attacks in the Kunar Valley in early summer, which cleared the valley of guerrillas and lifted the siege of Barikot on the Pakistan border, the Russians have launched further thrusts against Mujahidin supply lines in Pakitia province.

A hard-fought campaign around the garrison town of

Gandhi pledges new developments to woo Punjab voters

From Richard Ford, Delhi

Extravagant Punjab election promises are already pouring from the Indian Government party although campaigning for the polls in the north Indian state has been low key.

Voters were offered all manner of delights when the manifesto of the Ruling Congress (I) Party was officially launched here yesterday. Punjab which, until Sikh agitation began was the best example of Indian progress since independence and the nation's most prosperous state, will be inundated with new developments if the party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister wins power in the 113-seat State Assembly.

Although many suspect that control is the last thing Mr Gandhi and his party want, preferring the Sikh Akali Dal party to form an administration and then have to deal with the problem of Sikh extremists - the Congress (I) manifesto is ambitious in its promises. The Prime Minister has denied that the party does not want to win.

The manifesto promises to help to set up a nuclear power plant, develop a power plant at a fertilizer factory, and to expand the semi-conductor plant at Chandigarh, destined to become the sole capital of the Punjab in January, the party would try to increase production in agricultural industries, and would finish important dam and canal projects.

The main manifesto emphasis is, as expected, on the agreement between the Prime Minister and the assassinated Akali Dal leader, Sant Harmandir Singh Longowal. It pledges to implement the agreement in "letter and spirit".

As the manifesto was launched, the commission set up to determine which Hindu-speaking parts of Punjab should be transferred to Haryana state. Asked both state administrations to submit their claims within 12 days. The transfer, part of the agreement, is compensation to Haryana for giving Chandigarh, presently joint capital of both states, to Punjab.

Meanwhile, in spite of \$5,000 members of various police forces being on duty in the state, the Government wants another 200 companies of men and extra vehicles for the last week of the campaign. Candidates are being given two armed guards each by the Government and are allowed to use a further three with firearms licences.

In Amritsar, Sainam Singh Kanda, former President of the Punjab Sikh Youth Federation, has been detained and taken to the capital for questioning about last week's killing of a Congress (I) leader, Mr Arjun Dass. He is believed to be a close associate of Harmmeet Singh, a college lecturer arrested at the weekend.

French rail chief quits over 86 crash deaths

Paris - The President of French Railways (SNCF), M. André Chadeau, submitted his resignation yesterday after a succession of railway accidents which have killed 86 people over two months, mainly through human error (Our Correspondent writes).

M. Chadeau said he should accept responsibility for the

crashes in the name of SNCF. Measures were now in hand to "avoid a repetition of the human errors which are directly linked to these accidents, which we deplore."

● Publicity ban: SNCF announced it will halt all publicity to attract passengers, until the end of the year "out of respect for the victims" of the crashes.

Greek charged after holiday Briton dies

By Our Foreign Staff

Corfu - A Greek youth has been remanded in custody here after the death of a British tourist who was hit on the head with a bicycle chain in a taverna fight.

Mr Anthony Carne, aged 24, of Houghton Regis, near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, died at the Lutton and Dunstable Hospital after being flown from Corfu in an air ambulance.

His girlfriend, Miss Joanna Hunt, a nanny, aged 20, said that Mr Carne had planned to announce their engagement when he returned from what was his first holiday abroad.

The day before he was due to fly home Mr Carne was having a farewell drink in a taverna when two Greek motorcyclists began pestering some English girls.

Mr Carne told them to leave, his father, Mr Peter Carne, aged 50, said yesterday. "The two Greek men came back with about 10 others and they were all armed with bicycle chains and sticks. A fight started and Anthony was struck about the head with a chain and kicked," he said.

The parents said witnesses had heard a Greek saying: "Die Englishman, die".

Mr Carne slumped to the floor and was given mouth to

mouth resuscitation. A 90-minute wait followed before an ambulance arrived to take him to a Corfu hospital where he was put on a life support machine.

The holiday firm Thomson's flew Mr Peter Carne and his wife, Ivy, to their son's hospital bedside and on Saturday evening they returned with him to Lutton airport.

In Corfu, Mr Christos Atlatis, the island's Public Prosecutor, told *The Times* he had charged Demosthenes Kaloudis, aged 20, with intentionally inflicting severe bodily injuries which had resulted in the death of Mr Carne.

He said that the accused faced imprisonment for five to 20 years, and said he had opted against a murder charge for three reasons. The nature of the weapon, which, "however odious, primitive and savage", was not certain to cause death; the age of those involved; and because the injuries had been inflicted in the course of what he called a sort of duel.

Three other British youths questioned about the incident by the Corfu magistrate, were allowed to fly home on Monday.

Man held in baronet death case

From Jan Raath, Harare

An ex-convict freed last year after completing a jail term for housebreaking and theft has been arrested for the murder of a British baronet, Sir Andrew Imbert-Terry.

Neighbours found Sir Andrew, aged 39, shot in the head last Thursday in his home in the suburb of Borrowdale in Harare. A pistol belonging to him was missing.

The ex-convict, aged 25, was arrested in Harare after a tip-off. Forensic scientists at the scene of the murder found fingerprints which they traced to the man, who will appear in court tomorrow. The missing pistol was found in his possession.

It appears that Sir Andrew, a former captain in the Life Guards, surprised an intruder shortly after coming home late from a local restaurant.

Sir Andrew was the fourth in the Imbert-Terry line, and the nephew of the sixth Baron of Sackville. He was not, as previously reported, the stepson of the seventh Earl of Sackville.

● Access granted: Lawyers representing Mr Michael Constantinos, aged 53, a white former Mayor of Bulawayo, have been granted access to their client after requests by the British High Commission.

Mr Constantinos has been served with a document giving reasons for his detention, which followed the arrest of all 15 of Bulawayo's black city councillors, but the lawyers declined to say what these were.

17 executed

Peking (AP) - Seventeen men were executed here recently for murder, rape or robbery, according to posters and a special exhibit outside a city court. Six were convicted of sex offences.



Mr Anthony Carne and his girlfriend, Miss Joanna Hunt.



Smooth start to talks on EEC future

From Jonathan Braude, Luxembourg

British, Danish and Greek readiness to examine proposed amendments to the EEC's founding Treaty of Rome, despite their previous opposition, have eased the intergovernmental conference on the future of the European Community off to a smooth start.

No detailed amendments were being tabled at this week's meeting, the first in a series of

negotiations scheduled to culminate in the European summit of December 2.

A paper presented by the EEC President, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Mr Jacques Poos, did not call directly for the abolition of the controversial right of veto in EEC decision making, but suggested that there should be recourse to decisions by majority vote "as a general rule".

The only concrete result of this week's encounter was that the foreign ministers of the ten member states plus Spain and Portugal agreed on a timetable for further meetings and set an October 15 deadline for amendments to be tabled. Britain is not planning to make proposals at this stage.

The deadline also applies to proposals to strengthen Europe's political role in world affairs.

Times book banned in Moscow

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The *Times Atlas of World History* and a novel featuring the spy Kim Philby were among 30 books banned from British publishers' stands yesterday at the opening of the biannual Moscow International Book Fair.

Mr Tony Read, the chairman of the British Publishers' Association, said it was not clear how many of the books involved had been confiscated and how many stolen, but the Soviet authorities had admitted removing a number.

Apart from the *Atlas*, the volumes the Russians found unacceptable included Frederick Forsyth's thriller *The Fourth Protocol*, which envisages a Soviet plot to plant a nuclear device in Britain and Kim Philby as an adviser to the Soviet leader.

Some British publishers said they had been given to understand before the fair opened that some books would be unwelcome. They included George Orwell's *1984* and Arthur C. Clarke's *2010*.

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711	3:15	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
712	3:25	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
713	3:35	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
714	3:45	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
715	3:55	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
716	4:05	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
717	4:15	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
718	4:25	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
719	4:35	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
720	4:45	OUT 7	PHILADELPHIA
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Pit death protests force Spanish authorities to improve mine safety

From Richard Wigg, Oviedo

Spain's Mine Safety Commission began an investigation here yesterday as the wives of four Asturian coal miners, supported by relatives and friends, kept vigil outside a small local pit. They are waiting for the bodies to be brought out seven days after the accident that buried them.

The vigil and the fact that several Asturian pits are still not fully operational, although a 48-hour protest strike is officially over, appear finally to have stirred public opinion and alerted the authorities to the seriousness of Spain's mine safety problem. The Government had declared 1985 to be the "Year of mine safety".

In Asturias, 27 miners have lost their lives this year and 57 have died throughout Spain.

With 1,000 deaths in mines over the past 10 years, Spain's safety record lags behind that of all EEC countries. It is four times worse than Britain's record, according to the national leader of the Mineworkers' Union, Señor Jose Antonio Saavedra.

"The change promised by the socialists has not reached the mines. It is not the colour of a government which counts, but people's lives," he told me.

"As a union we are worried about who is going to get killed in Spanish pits tomorrow, and to stop that we must know the

cause of past accidents." He said that there were no systematic geological checks in pits.

The Mine Safety Commission, a new body, has, according to the miners' union, an annual budget of only £50,000.

Recalling a similar fatal accident in another Asturian mine two years ago, Señor Saavedra said: "Don't talk about bad luck but about a flagrant lack of security measures."

The Tudela pit, scene of the latest disaster, privately owned and employing 40 miners, is in a green Asturian hillside, its shaft slightly inclined. The wives wait in ramshackle outbuildings as teams of rescue workers relieve each other every six hours.

"We are encountering very dangerous conditions in which to work," one of the rescue men said.

The brother of one of the Tudela victims, himself a miner in a neighbouring pit, said: "When the government approved the miners' Statute (in 1983) we wanted the miners to be given permanent jobs instead of three to six-month contracts. If you are unsure of your job, you don't push for more safety precautions."

Señor Emilio Ganeil, the Asturian autonomous regional government's director of min-

ers, does not dispute the union figures, but put emphasis on the package of safety measures brought out by the administration last week after the Tudela accident.

Pointing to a worldwide increase in the past few years in the number of small mines opened up to exploit marginal coal seams, Señor Ganeil insisted that pit owners would be required to shoulder all their responsibilities for safety.

The number of mine inspectors in the region is to be increased from eight to 12, though Señor Ganeil admitted they could obviously not be at every coal face of Asturias' 140 mines.

Señor Saavedra said that in Asturias and Castile-León 5,000 miners were working in clandestine pits, while others employed at the state-owned pits go moonlighting.

The clandestine mines, part of Spain's "black" economy, can be disguised during the week as small-holdings, while being secretly worked at weekends.

Spain has only one establishment to teach miners their dangerous job. The Asturian government recently introduced two "monitors" who spend a fortnight at the coal face teaching those beginning the job.



Some of the 50 vessels that are blockading the Seine at the Alexander III bridge in Paris as part of bargemen's protest about shortage of freight and declining fortunes.

How hard times led to a barge blockade

From Our Correspondent, Paris

M. Jacky Malle, who took part in the "Seine" protest blockade at the weekend is one of the independent French bargemen whose drop in earnings over 10 years has meant that many are hard-put to make ends meet.

He bought his barge, the Renne, for 150,000 francs (£12,000) in 1976. He enlarged the hold and built a kitchen.

When he joined the blockade he had just delivered 410 tonnes of wheat, his first job in 43 days.

Gross receipts of 20,000 francs for the job became a net 5,000 francs, according to M. Malle, when fuel, tax and insurance charges had been paid.

He and his family live on board. Bargemen's children usually go to boarding school, but some bargemen this year have said they are not earning enough to send their children to school.

"We really only carry wheat", M. Malle said, "but we could carry much more, tins of food and spare parts, for instance".

He has installed a crane on his barge, and tried to secure a contract with a merchant importing timber from Africa.

A decline in wheat exports and what bargemen consider to be unfair competition from the railways is the cause of this year's poor business and the general decline over the past ten years.

Sculptor 'pushed wife to her death'

New York (AP) - Carl André, a sculptor whose works have been displayed world-wide, has been arrested and charged with pushing his wife to her death from the window of their 34th floor Manhattan apartment, police said.

Mr André, aged 49, was charged with second-degree murder after the incident early on Sunday morning, according to a police spokesman. He was freed on \$250,000 (£187,000) bail.

His one-man shows have been displayed in New York, Los Angeles and across Europe. Two of his works prompted public outcries after their sale: an untitled sculpture of 120 bricks for which the Tate Gallery paid \$1,000, and "Stone Field Sculpture," an arrangement of 36 uncut boulders in Connecticut, which cost \$37,000.

The British press criticized the Tate for its purchase, and Connecticut officials went to court in an effort to recoup some of the money.

Judge resigns

The Hague (Reuters) - Judge Platon Morozov of the Soviet Union has resigned from the International Court of Justice because of his deteriorating health. He had been a member since 1970.

Buying Boeing

Seattle (AFP) - Guinness Peat Aviation, the international aircraft leasing firm based in Shannon, Ireland, has purchased 12 new Boeing 737-300 airliners for more than £300 million (about £230 million) Boeing announced.

Madrid victim

Madrid (AFP) - Mr Eugene Brown, aged 40, the American businessman injured in a car bomb explosion in a residential square here on Monday, is in a deep coma, hospital officials said. He was caught in the blast while out jogging.

Spy's letter

Bonn - Hansjochim Tiedge, the former West German counter-espionage official who defected to East Germany, has written an emotional letter to his three school-age daughters. According to *Bild*, he said he was "being" cared for in all respects and hoped to see them soon.

Strike goes on

La Paz (Reuters) - The Bolivian Workers' Confederation voted to continue its six-day general strike indefinitely in a bid to force the government to back down on harsh austerity measures.

Briton honoured



Mr Brian Urquhart (above), the British Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, who joined the organization on its foundation in 1945, has been awarded the International Peace Academy prize (AFP reports from New York). Aged 66, he has been involved with all the UN's main peace initiatives, in the Congo, Middle East and Cyprus.

Free Aids test

Helsinki (Reuters) - Finns will soon be able to get free tests at health centres for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) virus.

Any old iron?

Redding, California (AP) - Eight tons of bronze artwork valued at \$400,000 (about \$307,000), including 19th century pieces and two complete Metro entrances from Paris, were stolen piece by piece from a storage shed here over the past year and sold for scrap.

Norwegian Government hangs on by one seat

Oslo (Reuters) - The Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr Kaare Willoch, narrowly survived Norway's general elections after a Labour opposition campaign for more oil revenue to be spent on welfare cut his centre-right coalition majority to a single seat.

The result, which hung in the balance until the early hours, left the three Government parties with 43 per cent of the vote and 78 of the 157 seats in the Storting (parliament) against 49 per cent and 77 seats for the left.

There was no jubilation at the outcome of the Government side. Mr Willoch said that Norway would be more difficult to govern as a result, and congratulated the Labour opposition on its impressive gains.

For the Labour leader, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the election was a personal triumph. Labour increased its share of the vote by nearly 4 per cent, making deep inroads in the Government vote, especially in rural areas left behind by the oil boom.

Labour conducted a vigorous campaign, attacking Mr Willoch's record on health and social services and portraying him as uncaring. The Labour message clearly appealed to Norway's highly egalitarian traditions and at one point Labour seemed assured of a one-seat majority.

The Government has admitted its image of curbing welfare benefits had cost votes, and the junior partners in Mr Willoch's coalition have already said they will press for less restraint in Government spending, especially on health services.

The most immediate threat raised by the left's electoral gains was to Mr Willoch's tough line on security and defence. Mrs Brundtland warned him that he would not be able to push his pro-American line in the new parliament.

The anti-tax Progressive Party, which holds the remaining two seats in parliament, has promised never to use them to topple Mr Willoch.

Final results		
(1981 results in brackets)		
PARTY	PERCENTAGE	SEATS
Conservatives	30.4 (31.9)	59 (63)
Christian People's	8.2 (8.3)	15 (15)
Centre	6.5 (6.5)	12 (11)
Progressives	3.7 (3.7)	7 (7)
Total non-Socialist vote	48.8 (50.2)	93 (96)
Labour	40.9 (37.1)	71 (68)
Left Socialists	5.4 (5.0)	10 (9)
Liberals	3.1 (3.3)	6 (6)
Total Socialist vote	48.4 (48.0)	77 (72)
Red Alliance	0.5 (0.7)	0 (0)
Liberal Democrats	0.5 (0.6)	0 (0)
Communists	0.2 (0.3)	0 (0)
Others	0.4 (0.2)	0 (0)
Total	1.7 (1.6)	0 (0)

Votes cast 3,098,152; turnout 82.7 per cent (81.5).

Philippines mayors urge inquiry after 10 killed

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Ten Philippine mayors have been shot dead this year, and the country's Mayors' League, fearing no end to this "miserable state", demanded yesterday that the killers be brought to justice.

The latest victim, Mr Westrimundo Tahayoyong, was shot in the back on Friday by a lone gunman who sneaked up behind him at an outdoor beauty contest in the northern town of Laonac. He became the fifth mayor killed since July.

"It is unfortunate and deplorable that while criminals seem to be having a feast of hapless

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SPECTRUM

Confessions of a street-wise cabbie

What's life like behind the wheel of a London taxi? As the tourist season draws to a close, Pearson Phillips talks to a driver about the training, customers, perks and pitfalls

When Bernard met Joyce after coming out of the Royal Artillery back in the 1950s it was pretty obvious he'd end up as a cab driver. He didn't have a trade, did he?

Her mother's side were all cabbies. Uncle Fred, Uncle Arthur, Uncle Charlie and Uncle Ben. Then there were the cousins, three cabbies and two married to cabbies.

So he went down to Kingsland Road - a bit of a market area, off the Kingsland Road down Dalson way. He bought an old push-bike for 15 shillings, fixed a board on the front, and set off to do "The Knowledge" of London, which according to a columnist called Monty in *Taxi - The Voice of the Cab Trade* requires "an intimate knowledge of inner London's 100 square miles of streets, as well as a more than nodding acquaintance with the 1,000 square miles of Greater London suburbs."

With Joyce breathing down his neck and a bit of help from one of the uncles (who was strong on Islington and Hackney but a bit rusty on Streatham, Balham and the East India Dock Road) he got through in six months. (Some people take three or four years nowadays and there is a 70 per cent drop-out rate).

He has been cabbie for 35 years now, starting at the time of the Festival of Britain, with one of those old beauties with a hood that folded down at the back, and a horn that you honked by squeezing a big rubber bulb. He has brought up two sons on it, both with degrees.

I did not learn all this by squeezing on to one of those flip-top front seats and parleying through a crack in the glass partition at the back of the cabbie's neck. We were in his sitting room (nice wine rack, Spanish holiday souvenirs on the mantelpiece), removed from the stressful battle of egos which invariably seems to surround the deceptively simple business of taking a taxi. How does life look from the other side of that sliding glass front curtain?

Bernard Stubbs is a big, grizzly bear in his early sixties who first came to London as a country boy from Wiltshire. But you wouldn't know it. He says the two words "Labour Party" with the same Cockney twang and much the same tone of scorn as Alf Garnet Esquire.

"Any cabbie who is broke must be plain stupid", is his opinion. But Bernard says he can take things a bit easy nowadays. No commitments. Not like some youngsters who have to find £130 for the cab and their diesel every week before they can get

around to paying for two kids and the mortgage. He has a half share in the hire of a cab with one other driver, that's called "a half flat". He does days, the other driver (a six-handicap golfer with a short game to polish up during the day) works nights.

He and Joyce have lived in the same Islington home all their lives. The whole house cost Joyce's father £1,000, before the war. Now the area has been gentrified and you would be talking six figures for it. "The change in the neighbourhood is handy", says Bernard. "When I go to work I sometimes get a fare before I've reached the end of the street."

So what does he bring in? This is a question which tends not to get an answer from the taxi trade. "Like most self-employed people, I'm not too keen to talk about what I earn. But I look at it this way. I like to get my expenses over and done with the first couple of days of the week. Then I've got three or four days where I'm working for myself. Two days for the cab. The rest for me."

There are perks, too. A little volume called *The Taxi Drivers Compendium* lists hotels which offer taxi drivers a commission for guests they bring along. The Central Park Hotel, Queensborough Terrace, 1, notice, offers £3 for a double, £2 for a single, cash on delivery. Some offer £5 for a double.

All cabbies are conscious of only having reached this satisfactory state by going through the gruelling knowledge tests. It's the initiation ceremony which binds them together. Knights of the Steering Wheel. How do they do it?

"You've just got to go and look at places and get a picture of them up here", he says, tapping his head. "Maps are no good. It's like you showing me a picture of your sister. Would I be able to recognize her afterwards in the street? Probably not. But if you were to introduce me to her, it'd be there. I'd always have an image up here. To me, looking at a map is like looking at a picture. You have got to see the streets to get a feel for them."

At the start they were issued with a kind of Grey's Anatomy of London, called the *Blue Book* (although it has apparently changed into a white book). "It had 18 lists, with 18 set runs in each list. We would work through them, a list at a time. Every month we'd be called for a test in a place we called 'The Dungeon', Carriage Office."

"It was all done by police inspectors in those days, and they



Fountain of knowledge: Bernard Stubbs, on the road for 35 years and proud of it

would be dressed in uniform like blooming Chinese admirals, with me standing on a little mat in front of the desk trying to answer the questions. They would take any one of those lists and ask you perhaps a dozen routes. They never said you were right. They never said you were wrong. If someone was really bad, all they would get was some remark like: 'If I was you, I'd keep on my bike.' They really weren't very nice people."

"If it went well enough you'd be told to come in once a fortnight, instead of once a month. And then they'd give you a 'Rec', which was Recommended For a Licence. But that was only the start. Next came the suburbs, and the driving test."

The suburbs I did from a book. Sat there all day long, and learnt it like poetry." He can still recite it, rolling out the street names in a flat monotone. "Euston to Barnet? You'd go Camden Town, Highgate, Highgate West Hill, Finchley High Road, Tally Ho Corner, Ballards Lane, straight through the way through to Barnet. King's Cross to Enfield? King's Cross, Caledonian Road, Hornsey Road, Muswell Hill..."

He got driving practice in a cab thanks to the British Legion, which ran a taxi school. Normally would-be cabbies have to "wangle", which

means paying for the borrowing of a cab to practice on.

At the end of it all he got his licence disc, to be hung at all times from his lapel. He was then a "Butter Boy", which is what cabbies of small experience are called. The big, solid, central cab firms do not want to know about them. He had to pedal down to Brixton to get a job... in the provinces.

He did 15 years on nights, and loved it. "It's another world from day work. Your fares are all out for pleasure. It was pure work, club, work theatres, and Café de Paris, the Four Hundred, the Guards Club."

"When they came out of the theatres, the women were in long dresses, the men in evening suits. I used to love taking them. Different now. When they put their hand up they've got hair all over the place, shirts open down to their navel, scruffy trousers. Probably the same kind of people, but I'd rather have the old style..."

He switched over to days because Joyce didn't care for spending nights alone. "I found it a terrible wrench. A different world. At night, Waterloo to Kings Cross, five minutes, zoom. In the day it can take half an hour. Down to Clapham Common at night, no problem. But day-time, you're talking about an hour or more's work."

Which is how we got on to the

tricky subject of how he looks upon his fare. Does he show disgust if they want to go where he does not want to go?

"Well, I try not to. Although it probably shows. Many a time I've sat half an hour in a station and someone comes up and wants to go round the corner. And I think, my God, half an hour and I'm going to get about 80 pence out of it."

"It's the element of surprise that keeps you going, though. You never know what's waiting for you round the corner. You and I, both cab drivers, could be going down the Caledonian Road, say. And I'm being clever and turn up Copenhagen Street, aiming for Kings Cross where I'll get a certainty. You go straight on and, stupidly, you cop a fifty quid job to Southend. That's why I don't have the radio. You can accept a job on the radio. But how do I know what I might have got if I'd kept going?"

"A long job is nice. Thirty or forty quid in the net in one day. Whereas it could take you all day in little short jobs..."

And, of course, a nice juicy Arab will always be welcome. "Arabs? Nonsense. I've never had anything on top of the fare from an Arab. Quite the reverse. Take them to the airport and they start haggling."

"I was in Coppen's Gate. An Arab stopped me. Showed me on his card where he wanted to go. It said

"Private Suite of the Grosvenor". That's nice, I thought. So he got in the back of the cab and he said: 'How much will it be from here? No more than £2, I said. I'll give you a pound'. You bloody will, my son, I said. I'll give you £1.50. So I told him to jump out as I wasn't taking him. Well, your guess is as good as mine what they pay for a private suite at the Grosvenor Hotel."

"But the Nigerians are the worst. They may be used to bargaining, but I'm not. It just annoys me to think that I'm out there trying to scratch a living and they are staying in £1,000-a-week apartments and trying to take 50 pence off me."

This doesn't mean that cabbies are meanies, according to Bernard. "We do a lot for charity, but the meter is business. We'll take handicapped children to the seaside on a day off but you won't find us wasting meter time taking the Mrs shopping during the week."

He says women are a bit funny, too, sometimes. "The other day two ladies, very intellectual, well-to-do ladies, got in at Harrods wanting the Fulham Road. I get down the Fulham Road, I'm double parked, and they said 'Wait there'. I said it's impossible. I can't wait here. So what was it she called me? A slag, or something. I said you can call me what you like, I'm still not going to wait here."

"Another lady stopped me in Oxford Circus as I was coming home. Would I take her to Weymouth Street? I said sorry, no. She says: 'Why won't you take me?' I said I didn't want to get involved in an argument, I would rather just say 'no' and that's that. And she took my number. I understand she should be annoyed because she can't get what she wants, but at the same time, I have to finish work. If she'd been going to King's Cross or Canonbury or somewhere, I could have taken her..."

"The law says that if you have your light on you have to take anyone if their destination is within a six-mile radius, or within one hour's working time - unless the driver has a reasonable excuse. Well, what's a reasonable excuse?"

What is his ideal fare? "Like any business, it's the turnover you've got to get for. Get 'em in the cab and get 'em out."

"What I like is a nice businessman, who'll have come up from Weybridge, say, gets in at Waterloo, 'Good Morning, Cabbie', wants to go somewhere in the City, sits back behind his paper. We get there, and I open the door for him and he says 'Thank you very much' and departs. I've given him a service which he values."

"Someone who knows what taxis are for."

TALKBACK

Voice of youthful reality

From S. Picton Phillips, *Weld Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool*
I am writing about the comment in today's issue of *The Times* (Spectrum, September 3), "The Inarticulate Voice of Youth". I am a 13-year-old, and after being given the article by my mother (who is ALWAYS complaining about my voice), I felt that you might like my view on the subject.

After giving three rules for how to use "teenspeak", Mrs Hodgkinson went on to say that communication between children of my age consists of a few set phrases each containing the word "totally". I might point out that in our area, I have not heard anyone use "totally" in that sense. I will agree that "wally" is a popular descriptive term for an idiot, but not on its heels come "prawn" and "neat".

Like Mrs Hodgkinson's son, I only pronounce glass with an "A" sound rather than "AR" (glarses) for fear of derision. At first I only used it at school, where, even though I go to the local "posh" school, a considerable number of my friends are "scally" (Liverpoolian), but the accent grew on and now, almost every time I open my mouth to tell my parents something, I get told to be quiet or talk "decently". I do, in fact, talk reasonably well and I think that maybe if the pressure of fashionable accents (scouse in my case) was lessened, more people would talk better. One of my friends used to speak perfect English. Now there's no point listening to her.

Politics to blame

From Stuart Johnson, *Francis Gardens, Romford*
I was entertained to read Liz Hodgkinson's recent article. However, I was grossly offended by her contention that "unattractive accents" are, in some way, responsible for mass youth unemployment. I would suggest that a more realistic explanation may be found in the world recession in general and recent Conservative government policies in particular. Is she suggesting that education lessens today's unemployment crisis?

Watch yourself too

From Mark Edwards, *East End Way, Pinner, Middlesex*
Leaving aside Liz Hodgkinson's rather tenuous argument that teenagers need only improve their speech to gain employment (although I failed to notice the name of Professor Higgins in Mrs Thatcher's new job-creating cabinet), one is still forced to conclude that she has not fully researched her subject. In concluding that "totally" is an all-purpose, yet meaningless, descriptive term among teenagers, she ignores the much more widely used, and equally redundant, "really". Things can be "really good" or "really bad" (the two terms mean exactly the same); "rather real" and "really real" (ditto). And when one takes a really close look at Ms Hodgkinson's own sentences - "Many teenagers have now actually become afraid to speak what is generally considered to be proper English" - one really must conclude that teenagers do not really have a monopoly on unnecessary adjectives.

Killing ambitions

From Kerry Milligan, *Willow Green, Needingworth, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire*
Apologies for my strength of feeling, but I am incensed. I have been before, and doubtless will be again while Liz Hodgkinson writes "comment". The offending article claims that "unattractive accents" do nothing to further job prospects of young people. Surely one can see that "teenspeak" has developed because the ambition, which caused Sue Lawley among others mentioned to shed her accent, has been killed off. Poor job prospects are blatantly not the result but the cause of the phenomenon.

Peter Evans

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 745)

- ACROSS
1 Rely (5)
4 Trace (6)
7 Deep breath (4)
8 Trustworthy (8)
9 Chevron (5)
13 Insuperiority (3)
16 Homeland (6,7)
17 Longest Scots river (3)
19 Dig in (5)
24 Kiss and cuddle (8)
25 Dirty fog (4)
26 In front of (6)
27 Musical evening (6)

- DOWN
1 Medicine measure (4)
2 Showy display (9)
3 Mourning song (5)
4 Blue Dutch ware (5)
5 Wander (4)
6 Roman house (5)
10 Thin pancake (5)
11 Understood (5)
12 Give off (5)
13 Tardy person (9)
14 Habits (4)
15 Leave out (4)
16 Alert (5)
20 Gentle job (5)

SOLUTION TO No 744

ACROSS: 1 Squama 5 Sect 8 Irony 9 Tripper 11 Stands by 13 Wisp 14 Vein 15 17 Also 18 Infant 21 Stuck up 22 Amount 23 Leap 24 Vicious 25 Quota 3 Any 4 Autobiography 5 Slim 6 Capsize 7 First class 10 Repository 12 Deck 14 Ast 16 Pasture 19 Agora 20 Ship 22 Ado

Exiled for keeping Poles in the picture

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid are shooting it out at the Elektronik. *Superman* is throwing himself at the stalls, the *Jedi* is returning (again and again) and the biggest thrill for a Polish conscript on a weekend pass is a red, misanthropic car called *Christine*, that jealously strangles American cheerleaders. Only the absence of vampires makes this an unusual week in the annals of the Polish cinema.

Ryszard Bugajski, one of the most promising film directors in Poland, can only shrug his shoulders at the malaise that fills screens with Steven Spielberg and *Twining Infernos* rather than home-bred talent. For Bugajski, for a filmmaker forbidden to make films, for a man who cannot work, life in Poland resembles, in his own words, confinement "in a grey concrete room with low ceilings".

On Friday, with the authorities final approval, Bugajski will emigrate to Canada, an exile. That will be a mingling, unnecessary defeat for Polish culture, an uprooting not without pain for his wife and young son.

"I have been forced to leave not only because I was unable to work at my profession but also because of the security people who have been persistently trying to persuade me that I should go."

Bugajski fell, or rather plunged, into disavowal because

of his film, *The Interrogation*, his debut as a full-length feature director. Shot before martial law in the winter of 1981, edited afterwards, it was shown to the minister of culture and a group of advisers - film-makers, historians, a philosopher - in April 1982, and subsequently barred from general release.

Instead, it now circulates on the Solidarity underground video network. The film tells of a girl, played by Krystyna Janda (*Man of Iron*, *Mephisto*) who is arrested in the Stalinist 1950s and presented with manifestly false charges. She is questioned, bullied, humiliated and tortured at secret police headquarters in Warsaw. An interrogator falls in love with her and eventually Janda is freed, her integrity more or less intact.

Hardly surprising that the secret police has not taken a shine to Bugajski. Arguing that the film was too dangerous for viewing, a Warsaw sociologist declared at the counselling session in 1982: "A mass audience will react to this film as the breaking of human beings by people in Polish uniform... would they make distinctions between Stalinist non-socialism and the socialism of martial law? Of course they won't!"

Bugajski, a pleasant, chubby, pipe-smoking sort of man, has fallen victim to the central dilemma of Communist filmmaking. On the one hand, there



Banned: Krystyna Janda in *The Interrogation*, and director Ryszard Bugajski

is the Leninist dictum, that film is the most important of the arts. It is the most direct, most effective way of talking to, and moulding the minds of, the toiling masses. A grave responsibility.

On the other hand there is the need to make the medium attractive to the cinema audience in the first place.

In Poland, the system for a while favoured the independence of film directors. Individual studio units are headed often by extremely competent directors and literary advisers who assess submitted scripts. They do the arguing with the censor and they find the finance.

Towards the end of the 1970s, the studio unit system helped to create a renaissance in Polish cinema and a wave of films led to what was known as the cinema of moral anxiety. With allusions and metaphor they dissected the nature of power and powerlessness, of corruption and corrupted in Communist society.

The Solidarity revolution of 1980 made Poles impatient with allusion - they demanded directness and candour, the truth about Stalinism, the eternal verities of socialism.

Bugajski tried to answer that need - his film shocks with its political candour, rather than through its brutality - but lost the race with the directors of martial law. When solidarity was banned, the generals tried to turn the clock back in the film world. Janda was ousted as president of the Film Makers' Association.

Polish intellectuals or artists are often sent into exile - and Poland's best, Czeslaw Milosz, lives in America; its most gifted minor playwright Slawomir Mrozek lives in Paris; Janda herself is rarely in



Warsaw, and the best known Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski resides in Oxford. But the exile takes with him not only a slice of Poland, but also a kind of time capsule.

Bugajski will make films in the west about the relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed. "I realize people in the west have other problems but in a free country, either in Poland or elsewhere, I would like to do what is important... Politics is an immoral kind of activity, but an artist should be concerned with all aspects of human activity, not excluding politics, from a moral point of view."

The questions being posed in the east could and should be translated into the idiom of the west. Is it, for example, absolutely wrong to use torture? What if a terrorist has planted a bomb that can kill hundreds and terror and torture is the only way to secure the necessary information to prevent a disaster?

Bugajski knows the answer to this: he hangs on - to his absolutes and will take them as cabin baggage to the west. Warsaw cinemas meanwhile will look forward to the arrival of *Indiana Jones* and the *Temple of Doom*: the moral dimension has been banished.

Roger Boyes

The violence that lingers on

A study by researchers from Oxford and Aberdeen universities and the Police Foundation calls for a reamendment of the criminal justice system to take victims' needs properly into account.

Victims need to be treated with care and respect by police officers, prosecutors, court officials and compensation agency personnel, says the report, *Victims in the Criminal Justice System*, published tomorrow by Gower (£8.95) as one of the Cambridge Studies in Criminology.

The researchers interviewed victims four times during their encounters with the criminal justice system, the last after the result of any application for, or award of, compensation. Some 276 victims took part in the first interviews and 216 in the final one.

Physical effects were reported by an increasing percentage of victims up until two years after an attack, but thereafter the number falls. The effects could include pain from a broken bone, inability to use part of the body, scarring, and aching bones.

There is a gradual rise in the percentage of those with possible emotional needs - a combination of social and psychological effects.

The social effects would include fear of going out at night, loss of friends and fear of contact with people of the same race as the attacker.

The percentage of victims suffering social effects rises to the two-year mark then falls, but the figure for psychological effects shows a slightly greater increase after two years. They include fear, worry and depression.

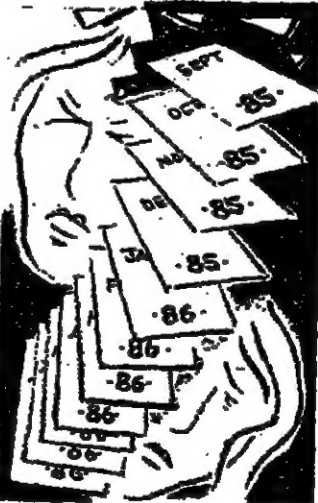
Financial loss is suffered by a sharply decreasing percentage of victims up to one year but thereafter stays at zero. Financial need lasts longer. Money could be lost through time off work, damaged clothes or, for example, having to pay bills for dentures.

Victims of sexual assaults seem to suffer most. They showed the highest level of effects at the first interview and the greatest tendency for them to persist. They were the most likely to describe social and psychological effects. Robbery victims also tended to suffer social effects, particularly loss of social life because of a fear of subsequent attack.

People expect scars from knife wounds but might not realize that their scars would ache in cold weather, make some physical tasks more difficult to perform or promote headaches.

With victims off work for the longest periods, it was some-

Victims of violence may still suffer from its effects more than two years after an attack, new research shows



times difficult to distinguish the point at which they had recovered from the physical effects of the attack, but were suffering from depression.

In 39 per cent of cases, victims knew their attackers in some way. If they are acquainted, psychological and social effects can be greater. Victim and offender may have to live in the same community. Even when the offender is unknown, the victim may be frightened of retaliation or a possible meeting. Or the victim may decide to take his own action against the offender.

Contact with the attacker after the offence was discovered to be surprisingly frequent. Fifty-five per cent of victims had some contact with their offender. 53 per cent had direct contact - face to face, telephone or letter - and 11 per cent indirect contact through third parties. Some had both.

Female victims became upset; male victims were more equivocal or aggressive.

Fourteen per cent of victims experienced some form of retaliation after legal action began. Unless retaliation took place immediately after the offence it was likely to take place somewhere familiar to the victim - his home, street or local pub or club.

The most serious was a further assault or damage to the victim's property. In such cases,

victims either initially did not wish to proceed or subsequently changed their minds.

Explicit intimidation or threats by the offender also scared victims and made them worried about going on with the case.

The police do not advise victims what to do about retaliation and tend not to reassure victims or tell them what is done if that retaliation is reported.

The report's authors say: "This does not encourage either peace of mind for victims or the smoother progress of prosecution cases."

Retaliation by victims against offenders rarely went beyond thinking about it, although victims sometimes surprised themselves by the strength of their reaction.

"It turns you more to violence - you think of ludicrous things", said one. "My wife and I both do archery and you fantasize about keeping the bow permanently strung and nailing them to a tree."

There were only two cases of direct action from the victim's side. Both came from relatives. In one, the husband of an indecent assault victim smashed up the offender's home before the case came to trial. The husband was convicted himself for this. In the other case, a serious physical assault in a feud between two families, the victim's brother tried unsuccessfully to attack the offender.

Peter Evans

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Fighting for choice at childbirth

An increasing number of pressure groups believe that women should be given more choice as to where and how babies are born.

Yvonne Roberts reports

Beverley Ann Beech was an administrator in the Civil Service when she had the first of her two sons. She had a 37-hour labour, a forceps delivery and a lacerated cervix. It took 18 months to recover and she suffered post-natal depression along the way. She also found it difficult to find anybody in the medical profession who could explain why it had all happened.

Thirteen years on, Beverley Beech is now chairperson of the Association for Improvement in the Maternity Services (AIMS), a voluntary post which is almost a full-time job. As such, she has become one of the commanders-in-chief of an ever increasing army.

The battle is for the right of a woman (and her partner) to have more say in the way their child is delivered. And more professionals, outside Britain at least, are listening to their case. Beverley Beech recently returned from an international conference organized by the World Health Organization in Brazil where she was one of two lay speakers.

Over the last few months in this country too, the battle has attracted the public's attention. AIMS gave advice to Peter and Sally Kraft, awarded £31,076 by a court because of the "excruciatingly painful" ordeal during the birth of their second twin son. The obstetrician, Mr James McGrath, had manipulated the baby internally without anaesthetic. The baby died two months later. The Kraits have asked the General Medical Council to hold an inquiry and say it has refused. The GMC says it is not its policy to comment on individual cases.

6 We want the safety of technology but not its inappropriate use

Beverley Beech has also helped Margaret Ackers (see below) who was recently awarded £14,000 after being conscious during a caesarean operation at Billings Hospital near Wigan. AIMS has also organized support for Dr Wendy Savage, suspended from her post as consultant obstetrician at the London Hospital following five disputed allegations of malpractice.

The orthodox view is that doctors know best. Beverley Beech explains, "And best usually means a hospital birth and technological intervention. That's fine for women who want intervention but it's the lack of choice for those who don't which concerns us. Particularly as such intervention doesn't have much proven scientific basis. For example, epidurals and induction both came into widespread use before being properly tested or monitored. Long-term research on the effects of high-technology births is almost non-existent."

In objecting to the routine use of intervention, we are not saying that this must be done irrespective of the safety of mother and child", she says. "We want the safety of technology but we don't want its inappropriate use, which makes the birth more traumatic and recovery more difficult."

It is easy to caricature the conflict as nature versus technology. Some critics of AIMS and similar consumer groups go even further. Herbert Barrie, a paediatrician at Charing Cross Hospital, London, in an article recently syndicated with obstetricians "who face strange ladies" who "infiltrate the system".



Leading the maternity services battle: Beverley Beech with her sons Alan, 9, and David, 13

and who "arrive without warning in the labour ward with their lethal shopping lists." Those who want a natural birth in the bush", he advised, "should go there."

The implication is that childbirth has been hijacked by a small but vociferous group of extremist feminists who base their demands on emotion and not facts. Facts or, rather, properly collated statistics organized methodically on a nationwide scale are not that easy to come by (particularly for consumers).

Nevertheless, the battle focuses on two main issues. Has technological intervention improved the chances of a baby's survival at birth? (AIMS would add a subsidiary: How does intervention affect the experience of birth for mother and child?) And second, how dangerous is birth at home?

In 1970, 13 per cent of British births took place in the home; by 1982 the figure had fallen to 1.1 per cent. As hospital births have increased so has the degree of technological intervention (see table). The orthodox view in obstetrics is that both increases have caused a drop in perinatal mortality. But Britain still has one of the highest rates in Europe, therefore, so the logic runs, more intervention will ensure a faster drop in deaths.

Beverley Beech argues that the decline in perinatal mortality is due to a complex set of reasons unconnected

with technological intervention. They include the use of contraception and abortion, improved nutrition and general standards of health and the reduction in the number of children a woman bears.

In addition, she points out that if the statistics for planned home births are compared with the figures for planned hospital births, then home births have a better record of safety.

What has provided AIMS's opponents with ammunition is that the overall mortality rate for home births has increased in the last few years.

6 Lip service only is paid to a woman's needs in a number of hospitals

The reason is that the figure includes unplanned home births such as premature babies and teenagers who have kept the pregnancy a secret - births which, by definition, have a high risk factor.

In 1984, AIMS carried out a survey of British hospitals to discover the different practices on the basis that if technological intervention is "good" it should be applied uniformly. Inquiries were made about perinatal deaths, induction of labour, the use of epidurals, forceps, caesareans and episiotomies (where the perineum is

cut surgically rather than allowed to tear). The survey revealed large discrepancies. One Manchester hospital, for instance, had an induction rate in 1981 and 1982 of 40 per cent while another in the same city had a rate of just over 10 per cent.

One London hospital had an epidural rate of 1.5 per cent, another of 47 per cent. Again, the average rate for caesareans is now one in nine births but some hospitals have a rate of one in three.

Three years ago several consumer activists, among them Beverley Beech and Jean Robinson (formerly of the Patients' Association), helped set up the Maternity Defence Fund. They did so out of frustration with the existing complaints procedures which rarely operated with fairness towards consumers. The fund now stands at £4,000 and is actively seeking out women who have had caesarean sections as a result of unnecessary intervention. The intention is to sue the obstetrician.

Beverley Beech is aware that the threat of litigation may produce defensive obstetrics. She says she knows the dilemma professionals face. Intervene too soon and they run the risk. If the baby is damaged, of being sued; if they intervene too late or not at all, they may also be sued. Litigation, she stresses, is an alternative "but it is not the answer". The answer, she believes, is a change

in the balance of power away from the medical profession. "They decide hospital policy, they decide what information about hospital statistics should be released and, if parents express dissatisfaction and complain, the profession judges itself on how good or bad medical practice has been."

She would like all committees - hospital ethical committees, health authority committees, planning committees, complaints committees and so on - to allocate a third of their seats to consumers. Consumer involvement is not welcomed, however, by the majority of the medical profession.

Maternity Services Liaison Committees are now being established in each district health authority (as a result of efforts by pressure groups). Beverley Beech would also like the publication of annual reports by every health authority and hospital. They would contain statistical data such as the use of epidurals and caesareans, a statement of hospital policy and a résumé of complaints.

It is now 25 years since AIMS was established. In that time changes have taken place. Men, for instance, are permitted to remain during labour if they wish, mother and baby are no longer separated at birth, and enemas and episiotomies are no longer routine. AIMS and other consumer groups in the maternity services also have a growing body of professional support, albeit still a minority.

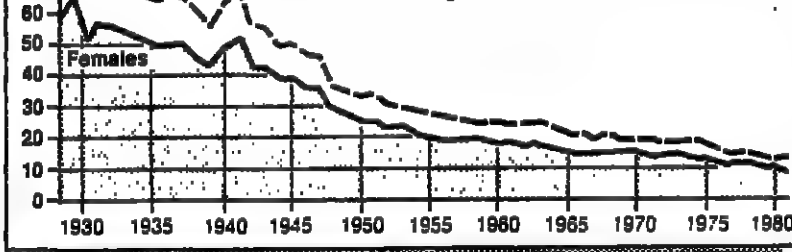
Progress has been made but the battle, Beverley Beech believes, is now entering a critical stage. "Lip service is paid to a woman's needs in a number of hospitals but if a woman doesn't know much about the issues, she'll find that she's steered towards a technological birth because she's told it's 'safer'. It may be easier for the obstetrician but it isn't necessarily safer."

"All we ask the medical profession to do is to listen and respond", Beverley Beech says. "It acts defensively because what is at stake isn't so much health and safety but power. Each time a woman asks a question, an obstetrician seems to feel it is a challenge to his authority."

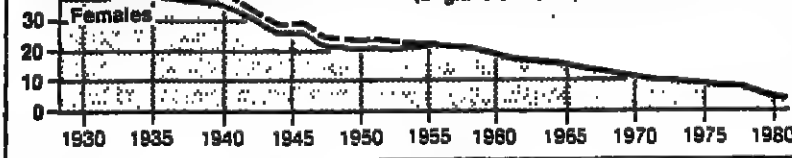
Until there is more flexibility in the profession's attitude to giving birth, we'll continue to question and monitor and challenge. A good obstetrician would see that as a means of ensuring the best care possible for mother and baby. The tragedy is that 25 years after we began, there is still a need for the organization."

AIMS, Christine Rodgers (Secretary), 168 Liverpool Road, London N1 Maternity Alliance (an umbrella organization for a number of individual groups), 308 Kensington Town Road, London NW5 2YJ (01-287 3258) The Society to Support Home Confinement (SSHC), 17 Laburnum Avenue, Durham (0285 61325) Association of Radical Midwives (ARM), Drive, Wimbledon, London SW20 (01-504 2010) Radical Health Visitors' Group, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG National Childbirth Trust, 9 Queensborough Terrace, London W2 (01-221 3833)

Infant deaths per 1000 live births (England & Wales)



Stillbirths per 1000 total births (England & Wales)



MEL CALMAN'S DIARY

A conscious effort to tackle life's foibles



The rise of visual food, the fall of an English institution:

first of a new series by the Times cartoonist

SUNDAY

Drive to Hythe to see the sea while summer (what summer?) is still here. The sun is shining and the seafront is crowded with people sitting in their cars. Why do the English like to sit inside cars and stare at the sea? Is it one way of making sure they don't get wet as soon as it begins to rain?

MONDAY

Start reading the next book I have to illustrate. It is about consciousness and human beings. It is so fascinating that I feel I ought to save some for tomorrow. So I go to my gallery instead and discuss Art and the Consciousness of the Overdraft. I also get a letter from my bank telling me gently but firmly they are charging an extra 1 per cent (on top of 14 1/2 per cent interest) facility charge. What is a facility charge for? Is it for the facility with which they extract money from their customers? Could I charge a facility fee for taking my pencils along to *The Times* every day?

Supper with Ruth Goetz, the American playwright who wrote *The Heretic* with her husband, Augustus Goetz. She talks about her childhood when she tripped over all the famous people in American theatre. W. C. Fields gave her the first bottle of perfume she ever had. "I was 11 years old and he gave me a leather box full of French perfume. My mother let me keep it on my mantelpiece." She thinks Fields was the most brilliant man in the theatre she ever met - and the best read. I somehow never associate W. C. Fields with reading books.

As I dislike coffee and the restaurant doesn't serve tea, we adjourn to Fortnum's Fountain Restaurant for a pot of tea to round off the meal. Fortnum's is one of those havens that the English do better than anyone else. The waitresses are like aunts, happy to cut your toast up into soldiers if you ask them nicely. I find it reassuring to go there and be looked after: it is not a restaurant - it is a grown-up nursery.

I am sorry to report that it recently suffered from refurbishment. The foolish chandeliers are gone, and so are the murals, the painting of a girl on a swing, the long bar and useful mirror behind it. Useful, because you could sit and survey the customers behind you. Why must people (often well-meaning people) change things which are already perfect? Here was a place that was exquisitely English - not in good taste - but exactly right for its purpose. One waitress said they had already received more than 600 letters protesting about the changes. I'm not the only old fogey who hopes someone will wave a magic wand and restore the place to its former idiosyncratic glory.

TUESDAY

Wake up early and vow to start work properly on this book I have to deliver by November. Do some exercises which consist of stretching out on the floor

and nearly falling asleep again. As I get older I find it harder and harder to finish exercises and new novels.

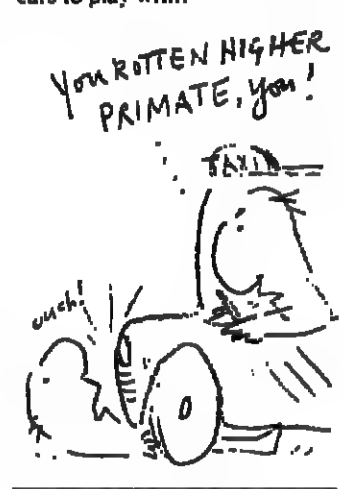
WEDNESDAY

Publishing party at the Dorchester to launch Anton Mosimann's *Cuisine Naturelle*. The room is full of Foodies, nibbling away at miniature pieces of graphic art. I applaud the new trend towards visual food but it does feel like sacrilege to bite into any of it. The pudding (soft-fruit puree arranged in a swirl of colour) is delicious. I hope the portions will be bigger than they were in nouvelle cuisine. I had lunch recently in a trendy new chateau, which was so cuisine minuscule that I had to go home afterwards and make myself a sandwich.

THURSDAY

Work virtuously on drawings. For an hour or so I feel I know what I am doing and then suddenly lose concentration and stop. The business of getting ideas is so mysterious that I dare not think about it. But I do, of course.

Go in a taxi to see a rough cut of one of the Channel 4 films that Nick Humphries is making about consciousness. On the way the taxi driver nearly knocks down a pedestrian, who slips and falls right under his cab. He is not hurt and gets up - to be roundly abused by the driver. I think the driver was frightened but it is a strange way to express concern. The film is all about the social behaviour of humans and other primates. I wonder how gorillas would behave if we gave them motor cars to play with?



MONDAY

Interesting example of social behaviour on the 38 bus. I sit next to a woman who is talking to her small child. The child is about three months old and a remarkably good listener. He needs to be since the woman is not indulging in baby talk but is going for the full conversation. "Look, there's Holborn Tube Station and we're now quite near the Cheshire Cheese, which is in Fleet Street. It's open till eight o'clock and serves quite nice snacks. Look, there's a building to let - with a sign saying TO LET. They need to find money from rich people. I expect." The child nods wisely. When I get off the bus, she is still talking and the child is still listening.

I can't decide if she is eccentric or wants her son to become adept at after-dinner conversation. Do gorillas make conversation? Do they have a series of after-dinner grunts that are the equivalent of "Mmm... how very fascinating?" I must ask Nick Humphries the next time I see him.

From the fruit harvest, make mine a mulberry

A silkworm was one of my earliest sorrows. For some reason silkworms were issued to everyone in my class at school and we were sent home with the scantiest of briefings for their welfare. They could manage on lettuce we were told, but what they really liked to eat were mulberry leaves.

For a while, my silkworm flourished. Then one day it lost its appetite for lettuce thinnings. Assorted greenstuffs were pro-

ferred and declined. By the time I found a helpfully labelled mulberry tree in the local park, the park-keeper had probably been badgered by half the school and there was no persuading him to spare my silkworm a daily leaf until it was ready to spin its wondrous cocoon of silk. I would have stolen the leaves if I had been tall enough to reach them.

The silkworm died of course, and after that I stuck to rabbits

which have a stronger hold on life. But its demise coloured my relationship with the mulberry tree and for years I viewed its fruit with suspicion.

Opportunism is still required to enjoy mulberries, unless you grow your own. At this time of year the fruit is ripening, dropping and rotting in many an old garden. A traditional method of harvesting them is to spread a sheet under the tree and wait for them to drop - a long business since mulberries ripen and fall over a period of weeks. Which is one reason they are not a commercial crop.

Another is probably that tastes change. The sharp flavour and high colour of mulberries is shown off well in jellies and sorbets. The texture is soft, like raspberries, but there is a maddeningly tough little core which does not pull out even when fruit is too ripe to handle.

Perfect mulberries are best eaten, like all soft fruits, just as they are or with sugar and cream. Surplus or imperfect fruit is best in ices or preserves. Mulberries are low in pectin so to make them into jams or jellies this must be added in the form of apple juice, liquid



Shona Crawford Poole

pectin from the chemist or pectin-enriched sugar from supermarkets.

Mulberry jelly Makes about 1.5kg (3 1/2 lb) 900g (2lb) cooking apples 900g (2lb) ripe mulberries 1 litre (1 1/2 pints) water About 900 g (2lb) granulated sugar (see method)

Wash the apples and chop them up, peel, cores and all. Wash the mulberries if they are very dirty, but not unless you have to. Put all the fruit in a preserving pan with the water and bring to the boil. Simmer until the apples are mushy, about 30 minutes, and crush the berries against the sides of the pan to release their juices.

Strain the pulp through a scalded jelly bag and leave it to drip overnight. To improvise a jelly bag, line a large sieve with a well boiled and still damp tea cloth. Tip in the pulp then gather up and knot the corners. Measure the strained juice

and return it to the pan. Heat it, and to every 600ml (1 pint) of juice add 450g (1lb) of sugar. Heat together slowly, stirring until the sugar has dissolved completely, then turn up the heat and boil briskly until setting point is reached.

To test whether setting point has been reached, usually after 10 to 20 minutes of rapid boiling, drop a little of the jelly on to a cold plate. If it stiffens and forms a skin almost immediately, it will set. Immediately take the pan off the heat and skim off any scum. Pour the jelly into immaculately clean jars which have been heated for 10 minutes in a very cool oven (110°C/225°F, gas mark 1/4). Cover at once.

Damsons are another old-fashioned fruit that is seldom seen in shops. With their intense colour and flavour they are ideal for jam making and ices.

Damson jam Makes about 1.8kg (4lb) 900g (2lb) damsons



300ml (1/2 pint) water 900g (2lb) granulated sugar

Simmer the damsons in the water for about 30 minutes or until their stones float to the surface. The water looks too little at first but the fruit quickly produces enough liquid for the stones to float. Skim off the stones, or cool the pulp and pick them out.

Put the damson pulp in a preserving pan with the sugar and heat gently together until the sugar has dissolved completely. Raise the heat and boil for a set (see previous recipe). Skim and pot the jam.

Damson spoon Serves six 450g (1lb) damsons 450ml (3/4 pint) water About 110g (4oz) light brown sugar

1 egg white Simmer the damsons in the water until the stones float to the surface then sieve them, discarding the stones. Sweeten the purée to your taste.

With the freezer or ice-making compartment set on its lowest setting, freeze the purée in a flat-bottomed covered container until it has the texture of heavy slush.

Beat the egg white to a stiff meringue and beat it into the partially frozen ice. Return the spoon to the freezer and freeze until firm.

Alternatively - fold the beaten egg white into the purée and freeze the mixture in an automatic sorbetière.

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A Taste of Cordon Bleu Cookery

Practical Cookery Classes The Cordon Bleu Cookery School announces the start of their Autumn Programme of popular short courses for the cook/homemaker. Courses range from a half or one day a week course for 6-12 weeks to a concentrated 1 week introductory or advanced course. Classes are small to ensure individual attention. The courses vary to suit everyone from the professional cook to the hostess who wants to cook well for family and friends. For further details, please contact: The Cordon Bleu Cookery School, 144 Marylebone Lane, London W1. Telephone: 01-935 1593.

THE TIMES DIARY

Reeced lightning

Enter Jeffrey Archer. Exit Gordon Reeed. Just like that, Mrs Thatcher's affable, champagne-tipping Svengali, whom she brought over from his job as aide to Armand Hammer of Occidental Oil in America to help counteract the Tories' banana skins, has left Tory Central Office. No forwarding address. Occidental, who gave Reeed a year off to be at Mrs Thatcher's side, thought he was back in America. Finally I tracked him down: in London. He tells me he no longer has a contract with Occidental, and has now set up his own one-man PR consultancy. Not so flash as one might imagine; he has no secretary and no Ansaphone. The only client he admits to is Occidental - which has "very kindly" given him a three-year consultancy contract. What about the Tories? "If they would like to ask me I would be only too pleased to help." Perhaps he will have to talk nicely to Archer...

False start

Scarcely had the SDP's Torquay conference begun than it was interrupted by a bomb scare caused by an unattended case. It was promptly blown up by the police. Its contents? Thin air. It belonged to ITN, and was merely an empty mike and transmitter case. The police, who were not amused, are so security-conscious that even toddlers are being checked. Matthew Goniwe, aged 20 months, was almost prevented from getting in by a constable who asked his father (fully accredited) for Matthew's photo-pass. Permission was granted only after a walkie-talkie call to control.

New frontiers

Soon there will be nothing the SDP does not know about our electoral system. Sporting an SDP badge at Torquay yesterday was Dr Edmund Marshall, the former Labour MP for Gwent who masterminded Labour's opposition to boundary changes which ended up in the High Court. Marshall's own constituency disappeared in the shake-up before the 1983 election. He told me he quit Labour at the start of the miners' strike and joined the SDP this year as a "new year resolution".

So much for the SDP's commitment to cutting red tape. Debenham in Torquay has sold 100 feet of the stuff to the conference. It is needed for lapel ribbons, the SDP claims.

What a drag

Spare a thought for anti-smoking campaigner Stuart Holmes. This week he hitched to Torquay to picket an SDP fringe meeting organized by Forest, the right-to-smoke group. When he arrived at the hotel for the meeting he discovered that no one else was prepared to spend an hour in a smoke-filled room. After 20 minutes facing the Forest man alone the picket, and the meeting, were cancelled.

Trunk calls

BA top brass were caught on the hop by my piece about the airline sponsoring a team to compete in the World Elephant Polo Championships in Kathmandu. The press office says "high-ups" rang demanding to know what it was all about (BA does not even fly to Kathmandu). Let me enlighten them: BA is to spend about £12,000 on flying out Lucinda Green and her husband David; Burghley victor Virginia Holgate and her fiancé Harish Leng; and two backs from the Mail on Sunday.

Among the books banned at the Moscow Book Fair is *The Times Atlas of World History*. There must be non-countries as well as non-peoples.

Lighter side

MPs taking a stroll on the terrace outside the Commons may soon be able to read advertisements, blinking out from a giant electronic hoarding atop County Hall on the other side of the Thames. The electronic noticeboard, the GLC hopes, will pay for itself via commercial ads with GLC messages thrown in for nothing. The council says it is a no cigarette, hard liquor, South African or sexist adverts will be allowed. Is there anything left?

Premature

The chomping noise you hear is that of supporters of "community policing" eating their words. Take for instance Lord Scarman's introduction to *Policing by Multi-Racial Consent: The Handsworth Experiment*. "Future historians may well say that the nation's battle for policing a multi-racial society by consent was won on the Soho road and in the backstreets of Handsworth."

Firing line

After my report yesterday about MPs' outrage at the new telephone system installed at the House of Commons (it doesn't connect), I now hear that David Steel is grumbling about the piped music - "Home on the Range" - played to callers "on hold". A Commons telephonist, who refused to be named - "I'll get sacked" - did manage to connect, and told me MPs had no right to complain. "You should see inside some of their rooms - it's disgusting." Some MPs, she said, moaned too much, even with the old system. "If I told you we sometimes cut them off, I'd be shot..."

PHS

The message that we are likely to be hearing increasingly loudly from the Conservatives in the run-up to the next election is that the paramount need now in the British economy is to cut taxes and that they are the party to do it. The Alliance needs to have the political courage to meet this appeal head-on and to assert equally clearly that it sees the main priority as redistributing wealth even if this means increasing taxation.

Both the SDP and the Liberals have a clear commitment to the more equitable sharing of wealth throughout the population but they have yet to formulate a coherent and radical programme for redistribution. The need for such a programme is urgent. We can no longer rely on steady economic growth to raise the living standards of the poor. Britain is becoming increasingly polarized into a society of the haves and the have nots. The only way of stopping this division is for a major and conscious effort by government to redistribute wealth which goes far beyond spreading the ownership of shares in former nationalized industries.

The eventual goal of the Alliance ought to be the implementation of a guaranteed national minimum income payable as of right to every adult in the country. The introduction of such a scheme has long been canvassed by several Liberals - it was, indeed, proposed by John Stuart Mill 150 years ago - and it would not be difficult to operate. A social dividend would be declared each year which would be deemed to be every citizen's share of the gross national product. It would be set at a level which would provide the material means for a simple but adequate existence - in present terms perhaps somewhere between £4,500 and £5,000. This would not be a hand-out but an absolute entitlement of everyone over 18. People could either use it as their sole means of financial support or supplement it in any legal way they wished, paying tax on all that they earned above the level of the national minimum.

One of the great advantages of a minimum income scheme is that it would recognize, and reward, the equally important contributions to the nation's wealth made by those who engage in conventional work, those who have given up their job to a more productive machine and those who run a household or engage in caring and voluntary activities either at home or in the community. Provision of a guaranteed national income would give people flexibility and choice as to how they use their time. Those who wished to devote themselves to bringing up children or looking after elderly relatives would receive an income for this work. Those who wanted sabbaticals from their jobs or periods for retraining would have the economic wherewithal to do so, as would those who simply preferred

Raise taxes and make Britain one nation again

by Ian Bradley

wished, paying tax on all that they earned above the level of the national minimum.

The introduction of a minimum income scheme has assumed particular urgency because of the technological revolution and the likelihood of persistent high rates of unemployment. Now that more and more jobs are being taken over by machines, there is a real danger that those who remain in employment gain all the benefits of increased productivity while those who are out of work gain nothing.

One of the great advantages of a minimum income scheme is that it would recognize, and reward, the equally important contributions to the nation's wealth made by those who engage in conventional work, those who have given up their job to a more productive machine and those who run a household or engage in caring and voluntary activities either at home or in the community. Provision of a guaranteed national income would give people flexibility and choice as to how they use their time. Those who wished to devote themselves to bringing up children or looking after elderly relatives would receive an income for this work. Those who wanted sabbaticals from their jobs or periods for retraining would have the economic wherewithal to do so, as would those who simply preferred

to lead simple and self-sufficient lives.

Such a major innovation could not, of course, come overnight. A necessary first step is the merging of the income tax and social security systems into a single simpler transfer scheme. The Liberals have argued for such a merger for many years and the Social Democrats have also expressed considerable interest. With full computerization of all Inland Revenue accounts due by 1988, it no longer looks as daunting a prospect as it used to. All social security benefits and allowances would be turned into tax credits along with existing personal tax allowances. Those whose total income was greater than the total of their tax credits would be net tax payers; those whose income was less than their credit entitlements would be net beneficiaries.

The introduction of a system of tax credits, or negative income tax as it is sometimes called, would abolish the poverty trap which exists when low-paid workers find they are worse off after a pay rise because of a loss of benefits. It would also end the absurdity whereby many poor families are paying tax at the same time as they are receiving supplementary benefit. There would also, of course, be an enormous reduction in bureaucracy and paperwork. Bringing in a tax credit scheme

would be expensive, and establishing a guaranteed national minimum income even more so. Both the standard and higher band rates of income tax would have to be increased appreciably. The various forms of tax relief which provide what is effectively a second welfare state for the better off would have to go. This government has already made a start with the abolition of relief on life insurance premiums but it is unlikely to go any further.

The Alliance should firmly grasp this nettle. There really is no justification for letting large numbers of people off their taxes because they are home owners or company car users, just as there is no justification for the universality of such social security benefits as child allowances. The fact is that the burden of personal taxation in Britain has shifted steadily away from the better-off in the last 40 years. Equity demands that this trend be reversed.

It is conventional political wisdom that promises of higher taxation lose votes. If the Alliance boldly chooses to fly in the face of this nostrum and argues for a greater redistribution of wealth, accepting that this will mean higher taxation for those in employment and for the better off, it may well find that the public mind is much less hostile than it might think. Recent opinion polls have shown that a clear majority of the electorate would rather pay higher taxes and see welfare services maintained than see a drop in taxation and a lessening in the public provision of welfare.

The Alliance parties should take the plunge and unashamedly proclaim themselves to be tax gatherers rather than tax-cutters. They may find that the water is surprisingly warm.

The above is an adapted extract from Ian Bradley's The Strange Birth of Liberal Britain, to be published on Monday by Chatto and Windus (£5.95 paperback; £11.95 hardback).

John Carlin explains Contadora's failure to end Central America's wars

The peace-mongers' missing factor

Mexico City. Faced with the awkward task of stating their positions on Central America, politicians the world over tend to shrug off the problem with a pious reference to the peace efforts of the Contadora group.

The Central American conflict has provoked heated international debate but on one point there is agreement: Washington and Moscow, the United Nations, the EEC, the Organization of American States, the Central American countries themselves, all have officially declared their support for Contadora and its search for non-military solutions.

Everyone is committed to Contadora because Contadora is committed to a peaceful solution to Central America's conflicts. But few seem to have considered how plausible the Contadora initiative actually is. Since Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama formed the group in January 1983 its key principles of self-determination, non-intervention and arms reduction have been consistently violated.

Three guerrilla wars are currently raging in Central America - in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. There is no end in sight to any of them and no sign of change in the grim statistics they serve up. Since 1979, when the Sandinistas took power in Nicaragua and the civil war in El Salvador began, more than 100,000 people have been killed and more than two million - out of a total Central American population of 16 million - left homeless. Meetings began last year between Nicaragua and the United States and also between President Duarte's government and the guerrillas in El Salvador. They have broken down, despite the entreaties of the Contadora group, demonstrating again how little trust there is, how irreconcilable the differences are, between the parties in conflict. Contadora's wheels, however, turn on. Representatives of the four Central American nations are forever holding meetings and flying from one Central American country to another for "consultations".

This week the Contadora group is holding what the Mexican foreign ministry has described as its most important meeting in a year. The four Contadora foreign ministers begin talks tomorrow in Panama City with their counterparts from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Even the Mexicans - by far the most optimistic and forceful of the Contadora four - have admitted a breakthrough is out of the question, that the best they can hope for is a statement of the Central Americans' willingness to continue negotiations. After 32 months of intense diplomatic activity, morale is not



War without end: a Salvadoran soldier is carried to safety after a guerrilla ambush.

high among Contadora officials. The Venezuelan foreign minister, according to Latin American diplomats, has said privately that he believes the Contadora group has reached a dead-end. The Panamanians and Colombians are said to be frustrated and pessimistic. The Mexicans are backtracking. The Central American states are divided into two camps with one, Guatemala, remaining neutral.

Guatemala is the most independent country in Central America, and the most repressive. The Guatemalan head of state, the implacable anti-communist General Oscar Mejia Victores, confounded the Reagan administration when he declared recently that his country could coexist with Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, however, see Nicaragua as a permanent threat to their existence. Economically dependent on the US, they are Washington's closest allies in Latin America.

Nicaragua, the most left-wing country on the Latin American mainland, calls El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica "the puppets of Yankee imperialism". The American-financed Nicaraguan "contras", bent on the overthrow of the Sandinistas, operate from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica. Air and sea attacks have been launched from El Salvador. Strangled economically by the "contra" war, Nicaragua is more desperate than anyone for a negotiated peace.

The US, however, is clearly not contemplating any sort of negotiation. The assistant Secretary of State, Elliott Abrams, said last

month it was "preposterous to think we could sign a deal with the Sandinistas and expect it to be kept". According to a State Department draft report leaked to the press last weekend, the US would prefer to see Contadora collapse before a Central American agreement unacceptable to Washington was produced.

Diplomats in Central America believe the basic flaw of the Contadora initiative is that it works on the premise, reiterated recently by the Mexican foreign minister, Bernardo Sepulveda, that "Latin American solutions can be found to Latin American problems". "The Contadora group would seem to be at work persisting in the effort to persuade all parties in the Central American conflict, the US included, that a 'political agreement' will ultimately serve their best interests."

However, he does not rule out the possibility that Contadora's days may be numbered. The group will cease to have any further purpose, Valero said, the moment it becomes evident that the Central American nations are saying one thing and doing another, using Contadora as a smokescreen while perpetuating a state of war. "Mexico will not be an accomplice to this," he says.



There is a growing feeling that there are only two possible solutions: either the Nicaraguans change their system of government in a manner radical enough to be acceptable to Washington or President Reagan suddenly decides his policy has been wrong all along, that he can, after all, live with the Sandinistas.

Last week Ricardo Valero, the Mexican official most closely involved in the Contadora process, tacitly admitted that both these options are entirely out of the question at present.

Valero nevertheless believes it is worth persisting in the effort to persuade all parties in the Central American conflict, the US included, that a "political agreement" will ultimately serve their best interests.

However, he does not rule out the possibility that Contadora's days may be numbered. The group will cease to have any further purpose, Valero said, the moment it becomes evident that the Central American nations are saying one thing and doing another, using Contadora as a smokescreen while perpetuating a state of war. "Mexico will not be an accomplice to this," he says.

The coolest heads in Central America acknowledge that the Contadora group may have acted as an impediment to the escalation of hostilities. But it is only a zealous minority who actually believe that Contadora can, in the final analysis, provide a check to the possibility of US intervention and find a lasting solution.

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Danger: nuclear safety men not at work

move. A continuous recruiting drive over the past three years has secured just over a dozen new people, but it takes at least two years to train recruits to become inspectors.

The NII, part of the Health and Safety Executive, ensures that new and existing nuclear installations are designed, built, operated and maintained to required safety standards. From its inception the NII has maintained a low profile. That was changed by the inquiry into the Central Electricity Generating Board's Sizewell B pressurized water reactor project.

Regular appearances at the proceedings and a major role during the safety sessions, which lasted 12 months, drained the NII's resources. Ron Anthony, the chief inspector, estimates that the effort absorbed 25 per cent of the inspectorate's time. Work had to be delayed or left undone. In the year before the inquiry, inspectors visited 762 sites; two years later only 400.

The NII is reluctant to wash its

dirty linen in public, but the minutes of a private meeting this year with the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations indicates the scale of the problem facing the inspectorate.

In a series of candid exchanges the NII told the committee that reviewing the safety of Britain's existing gas-cooled reactors - the Magnox and AGR power stations - was straining staff resources. It said that lack of staff was hampering the risk assessment of nuclear chemical plants such as that operated by British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield. It complained that it could not pay "the desired amount of attention to industrial safety". Work on fast reactor safety, it revealed, was minimal while the assessment of safety principles for radioactive waste dumps had had to be abandoned because of lack of experienced staff.

The Health and Safety Executive has attempted to mitigate the crisis by retaining staff working on

Sizewell B in London for a year after the main move. It is also setting up a small policy branch in the capital.

Government ministers made reassuring noises when the matter was raised in the Commons. On June 3, Alastair Goodlad, a junior minister in the Department of Energy, told Mr. "The government is conscious of the need to maintain high standards of the inspectorate. The detailed arrangements for dispersal are a matter for the HSE. I understand that it does not believe that dispersal need have serious consequences for the effectiveness of the inspectorate."

Most of the available evidence suggests the government is too sanguine. In the past the NII has relied on recruiting staff from inside the nuclear industry, including the CEBG. In the past three years no one has come directly from the board. CEBG senior engineers are on a salary scale well above that of the inspectors who licence their work.

For the time being the HSE is keeping its fingers crossed that the revolt over the Sizewell move will be kept to a minimum, but it concedes that if there is an exodus of staff, safety work will be let up.

Roger Milne

Peter Kellner

A Soviet lesson in tapping talent

Let us, this once, praise the Soviet Union. It does many things wrong, but it does a few things right. And - while Russia's ramshackle economy clearly has much to learn from the West, there are also lessons that we could usefully learn from them. One concerns a basic element of capitalism: the role of risk-taking in rewarding success and punishing failure.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I took our four-year-old son to Moscow for a consultation at the city's Institute for Eye Microsurgery. The institute, which is almost all known principles of Soviet economic life. It is modern, efficient and innovative. Instead of using scarce dollars or yen to buy second-hand knowhow from the West - as, say, some Soviet car factories do - it sells its technology to the West.

I first met the institute's director, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, in June when he came to London to unveil his latest invention, a silicon lens which can be implanted in the eye and left there permanently, making spectacles and contact lenses unnecessary for anyone who has had the operation. The lenses are to be manufactured in the West under licence by one of Britain's leading manufacturers of ophthalmic lenses.

This is the latest of a line of Fyodorov's innovations to be sold to the West. He has pioneered laser surgery, the development of computer software for diagnosis, and the "Fyodorov diamond knife", the sharpest instrument ever made. This is used to make microscopic incisions in the eye to repair poor sight.

Fyodorov has also introduced other techniques that introduced horror to western specialists. Most adult patients at his clinic are treated on a conveyor belt, with operating tables moving along a line of technicians and doctors, each of whom has a specific task, like a car assembly-line worker.

Each doctor participates in up to 20 operations an hour, an expensive live hardware is never left idle. If the institute were a British factory, and Fyodorov were its manager, Mrs Thatcher would be proud of him.

Mrs Thatcher's problem, however, would be to explain why the institute succeeds. It has raised no venture capital, nobody owns shares in the enterprise, and no one is threatening privatization as a way of keeping Fyodorov and his colleagues on their toes.

The official Moscow line is that Fyodorov's institute is merely one of the peaks of a generally excellent Soviet version of the NHS. Unofficially everyone knows this is nonsense. The Soviet press regularly unmask scandals concerning insanitary conditions in rural clinics, and the shortage of routine prescription medicines. In one case the readers of *Literaturny Gazette* were treated to a terrifying first-hand account by a Moscow journalist of how a succession of doctors made a complete mess of healing a broken

arm by setting its bones askew. "So what?" he reported one doctor as saying. "You can write articles with a twisted arm, can't you?"

The success of Fyodorov's institute, then, cannot be explained by communist planning in general or the performance of Soviet medicine in particular. Clearly one of the reasons Fyodorov manages to command the resources he needs to continue to innovate is that the Soviet health ministry knows that his work contributes both to the country's prestige and to its hard currency earnings.

But the process by which the financial investments translate into commercial rewards is too remote from Fyodorov's team of technicians dedicated doctors and technicians. They do it, I believe, for the same reason that drives a talented group of people to feel it is worthwhile to do good work: they feel it is worthwhile, they trust one another, they have sufficient freedom and resources to get on with the job, and they can see for themselves the benefits it brings.

To anyone not constrained by the need to fit all human activity into a single ideological model, these ought to be obvious enough observations. Yet not only are they seldom put into practice, the general state of human organizations on both sides of the iron curtain actually prevents them from being applied. Occasionally a group of people come together and do something worthwhile, not because they are somehow any more noble or selfless than anyone else, but because they have been able to create a sort of economic micro-climate where the normal rules do not apply.

Under capitalist theory, those "normal rules" involve risk-taking and the profit motive. In many areas of economic life personal greed can be propelled by competitive pressures to produce better mousetraps or cheaper candy floss. But when you want to create a team of potentially world-beating innovators, most practical experience shows that they need some degree of protection from the vagaries of the financial markets and bank lending policies.

In Russia, the problem is the opposite: how to avoid excessive security, with little direct incentive to innovate or improve product quality - merely a bureaucratic demand to fulfil predetermined plans. But, occasionally, the right people come together and succeed by creating a micro-climate that no bureaucrat can command and which no risk-taking theory can explain.

That is what Fyodorov has achieved with his institute in Moscow, just as, say, Britain's Nobel prize-winning scientists in universities do, when they are not preoccupied with government grants. Sadly, the Russians do not seem able to apply the lessons of excellence elsewhere in their economy. Just as sadly, neither do we.

The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

moreover... Miles Kington

Dallas comes to Datchet

I've suddenly realized that what this newspaper needs is a soap opera. Charles Dickens serialized his novels and made a fortune. Somebody devised *Dallas* and made a fortune. No newspaper is serializing a soap opera, no newspaper is making a fortune. So this space will in future be devoted to a daily soap opera, detailing the doings of some fabulously rich family who have already made a fortune.

After exhaustive research I have decided that the family should be American, as only the Americans have the necessary brashness, dynamism and endless money to make them interesting. I have also decided that the story should be set in England, as I can handle the background detail better.

Today I shall introduce the main characters. The story itself will start tomorrow and go on for a trial five-year period... Kentucky Nuggets. Head of the fabulously rich Nuggets family, Kentucky is 40, handsome and ruthless. He lives in a part of Sunningdale so exclusive that he has bribed the Ordnance Survey not to show it on their maps. Every day he helicopters into the City to manage the foreign operations of Nuggets International, which buys and sells money. His only hobby is insuring things with Lloyd's which he knows are going to sink or blow up in six months' time. He likes fox-hunting, but as he prefers to do it from a helicopter he finds it hard to stay a member of a fox hunt for long. Everyone hates him.

Dawn Nuggets. Kentucky's beautiful 35-year-old wife. She comes from an aristocratic, fabulously poor Connecticut family and hates Kentucky because he likes to eat potato crisps so much as the fact that he tends to do it in other women's beds. She would like to kill Kentucky but doesn't know how, as there is no tradition in her proud Connecticut family of killing people you don't like, only cutting them dead. She has bought a book on helicopter maintenance with a view to sabotaging his helicopter, and has got to page 3 without understanding a single word. She takes drugs secretly, drinks openly and thinks British TV is the best in the world, because in her state she can only handle four channels at a time.

Chester Nuggets III. Kentucky's elderly father, who has surprisingly been named American ambassador to Britain, in return for lending the White House some ICBMs he didn't need. He maddens Kentucky by

getting invited to high-up social functions which Kentucky is not invited to. He has fallen in love with the Queen, whom he rings at odd hours to chat about horses.

Webster Nuggets. Kentucky's fabulously rich younger brother who has settled in England because he has fallen in love with cricket. He wants to donate a perspex astrodome cover to Lord's so that cricket can be played all the year round, but Lord's are being stuffy and asking for a Brian Johnston Cricket Commentary Museum instead. His family hate him, because they think cricket is a girl game.

Don Wilks. Kentucky's hunky helicopter mechanic, who is having an affair with Dawn. He is also having an affair with Webster Nugget's wife, Raspberry Nuggets, but doesn't realize this as both women are played by American actresses so alike that he thinks they are the same girl.

Casper Nuggets. 19-year-old son of Kentucky, whom he hates. Casper is a rebel and a dropout. He goes for long bike rides in the country and comes back with wild flowers, sometimes he doesn't come back at all - mainly because home isn't marked on an Ordnance Survey map. His great ambition is to get on the darts team of the Old Rangoon pub, Sunningdale. Everyone hates him, especially the regulars of the Old Rangoon. He is having a torrid affair with Don Wilk's wife, Euphemism.

Semolina, Lady Cinqfoil. Kentucky's younger sister, who married into the British aristocracy and now wishes to have nothing more to do with her American family. Kentucky, however, has a hold over her: he is the only one who knows that she is really black, and threatens to reveal this if she doesn't get him invited to Cinqfoil for the annual staff dinner dance.

Enrico Nuggets. The black sheep of the family, and Kentucky's cousin. He supplies drugs to the entire British cabinet. The British cabinet don't take drugs, of course, but they resell the stuff at street prices to put another £3 million a year into government funds. Enrico's great ambition is to own a British national newspaper and write the racing form himself. He is having a torrid affair with Lady Semolina's elder daughter.

Gosh, has space run out already? And there are still 36 more characters to introduce. I'm afraid the start of the story will have to be postponed.



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MOB MURDER

Nightly we have been a film audience for the drama of racial anarchy in the African townships of the Cape province. The horrified fascination of the onlooker was tinted by moral superiority, secure in the belief that social disintegration there is the poisonous fruit of a public wrong in which we are not implicated. Now the camera is turned on ourselves.

There may even be an element of imitation linking Handsworth with Cape Town. Appearances suggest as much - barricades of burning vehicles, looting of shops, and the common effect that the immediate victims of black violence are the Asian shopkeepers of the district. But the copycat element, if it was present at all, is not required to explain the eruption on Monday night. Less speculative factors have greater weight.

One is drugs and the criminality surrounding their illicit traffic. The chief constable mentioned this in his first account of the riot. So did some of the young blacks of Handsworth the next day. The West Midlands drug squad has been active in the district on the evidence of supply lines converging there. That is translated into the vocabulary of "police harassment" in the community attacking the drug squad's attention. The bongo ball in connection with which the riot started was subject to a proposed change of use which some thought conducive to further drug abuse.

The speed with which street barricades were thrown up

before the police were able to respond in force, and the readiness to hand of hundreds of petrol bombs seem to argue more planning behind the riot than the first official account of it allowed. And the method systematically employed of firing premises after stealing their contents suggests more venom than is contained in a picture of a happy evening's looting. Malice and criminal inspiration stalked the streets of Handsworth that night.

The outbreak is the more unnerving because Handsworth, which was relatively unscathed in the multiple riots of four summers ago, has been seen as managing itself better than most with similar urban brews. Merely racial antagonism is not much in evidence there in the opinion of those who know it. Unlike Liverpool and Lambeth its local authority, whatever its political complexion, has been conscientious and fully co-operative with the government of the day. It is a "partnership" authority, which gets it a bit of extra environmental money, some of which has benefited the Handsworth district - though not on a scale to make much impression on an accumulation of urban decay, bad housing and a local economy which gives Handsworth a youth unemployment rate of fifty per cent.

Handsworth, moreover, has been sensitively policed. It has furnished an example of "community policing". The techniques of that policy are still argued over, and the techniques

employed at Handsworth obviously call for re-examination. But the policy itself, the essence of which is to work with the grain of society, to mobilize the elements of self-policing present in a community, and to win for the police the maximum confidence of all who are not criminally disposed, is plain common sense. It is certainly not discredited by the events of Monday night.

Other police forces and the communities they protect now stand on the alert against the replication of what occurred at Handsworth for motives of sympathy or revenge. They are reminded of how fragile is the bonding of public order where there is urban deprivation and colour consciousness, half the young adults are without jobs, prospects look no better, and petty and not-so-petty crime are endemic.

In Handsworth itself there were innocent victims who perished in the flames of anarchy. That gives the night's work a gravity and a potential for vengeance that was mercifully absent from the riots five years ago. It also gives to the immediate policing of Handsworth the extra dimension of a murder hunt. It is of the highest importance that that be pursued to the utmost, with the help it must be hoped of the people of Handsworth themselves. If it means "heavy" policing in relation to that crime, so be it. Safety depends on the law having the capacity and the reach to bring the instigators of mob murder to justice.

Blind choice for Alliance leadership

From Mr Adam Butler, MP for Bosworth (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article of September 7 drew attention to the nonsensical situation involving the competing leaderships for the two parties of the Alliance. Events at the SDP Conference have added to both the nonsense and the confusion which surround the subject.

One point which has received scant comment so far, however, is the position of the ordinary SDP or Liberal voter. The arbitrary selection of an SDP or a Liberal candidate for a constituency effectively denies a choice to the voter of the other persuasion.

At the next general election this sort of disenfranchisement will be compounded if the intention prevails that the key to No 10 should go to him whose party wins the most seats. In every constituency there will be those who passionately prefer one David to the other but who would not be able to record that view - or much worse, might end up with the one they did not want.

The only consolation for them is that in practice it will not matter! Yours faithfully, ADAM BUTLER, House of Commons, September 9.

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir, There is no doubt that the most certain way of breaking the present two-party stranglehold of British politics would be for the next election to be fought by a united single third party with its leader as a prospective Prime Minister. This will not happen because such an objective is beyond the practicalities of the Alliance in its present state of development.

Old emotional attachments and human ambitions are unavoidable constituents of politics that always limit the potential for the required solution. The next election will therefore be contested by two left-of-centre parties bound together by tactical necessity and probably without an identifiable potential Prime Minister.

We must therefore hope that the sense of the need for the Alliance to speak a new political language will at least prompt its leaders to state honestly the facts of the limitations of their situation. While it is probably right that it would not be practical for the two parties to merge

before the election, it is wrong to claim that the country is seeking a demonstration of two separate parties working in conjunction.

The fact is that the electorate find it hard enough to adjust to the need for a true three-party system and are rightly sceptical about the necessity for a multiplicity of parties. They may however respond to an honest statement of the practical necessity for the two Alliance parties to take their time in surmounting all the problems of a merger.

As your perceptive columnist, Mr Geoffrey Smith, outlines in your issue of September 9, it will be far more difficult to persuade the electorate that it is unavoidable that they should be presented with a blind choice of Prime Minister if they vote for the Alliance. It is easy to understand the difficulties that Dr Owen and Mr Steel face in the matter.

Dr Owen has a strong claim in terms of experience; but even if Mr Steel was prepared to make the generous sacrifice of standing down from the leadership of a movement that is more his creation than that of any other individual, it is doubtful whether many of the Liberal activists, on whom will rest much of the burden of the election campaign, would be ready to accept such a gesture.

It would, however, still be possible to arrange a ballot of all Liberal and SDP party members to elect the leader of the Alliance. Dr Owen may well feel that this would weigh the scales too heavily against him in view of the greater number of Liberal Party members when there are justifiable grounds for the belief that he is the most qualified of the Alliance leaders for the post of Prime Minister.

If these are the reasons preventing the election of a single Alliance leader, it will be far better to state them honestly than to attempt any kind of fudged explanation on the lines that the electorate would prefer to vote for a policy and a party without the knowledge of who would be Prime Minister if their votes prevail.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD S. ROWNTREE, Kingsthorpe, North Yorkshire, September 9.

Ethics of raising wreck of Titanic

From Mr James Rusbridger

Sir, The morality of interfering with the wrecks of ships that are the graves of those lost at the time of the sinking is both confused, and often hypocritically interpreted. The term "official war grave" as applied to a wreck has no official status. A wreck may still legally belong to someone (although many are disowned for fear of third-party liability while quite a few naval wrecks are formally paid off) but this does not stop anyone from diving on a wreck, provided neither damage is done nor artifacts removed, as happened in 1983 when a propeller was illegally taken from HMS Hampshire.

After the last war, many Merchant Navy wrecks around our coasts were deliberately destroyed with explosives because they constituted a danger to the navigation of super-tankers, but there was no outcry about those who had been lost on board. Equally, some of the naval vessels lost during the Falklands War in 1982 have been similarly destroyed to prevent the Russians from salvaging sensitive equipment still on board.

The British Government secretly dived on the Lusitania in 1954 to remove the gun mountings, the Mary Rose has been raised under royal patronage, gold has been recovered from HMS Edinburgh, and a safe from the Andrea Doria. It is difficult to see why the Titanic is any different. As diving technology continues to improve, many wrecks, hitherto thought lost for ever, will now come within the reach of salvors.

Yours faithfully, JAMES RUSBRIDGER, 7 Tremena Road, St Austell, Cornwall.

Future of Unesco

From Mr Horla Georgescu

Sir, The recent exchanges about Britain's possible withdrawal from Unesco at the end of the year overlook one of the main short-comings of this organisation: its unwillingness to put pressure on Communist governments to respect and preserve the national heritage of their countries.

In Romania, for instance, the Ceausescu regime has been engaged for several years in a systematic campaign of demolition of historic monuments, especially churches, which is without precedent even in Eastern Europe. The official reason - the need to enlarge or build wide thoroughfares as a hallmark of the "Socialist era" - barely disguises the regime's dislike of the Church and of the religious-historic past of Romania.

A group of distinguished Romanian intellectuals in exile have appealed to Unesco in Paris, only to be told that they should "petition the Romanian authorities". Subsequently, it became clear that Unesco is unlikely to raise this matter with the Bucharest Government in an effective manner.

One sadly concludes that Unesco is failing in one of the duties enshrined in its charter.

Yours faithfully, HORLA GEORGESCU, 36a Arterberry Road, SW20.

Not such a rare bird

From Mrs Patrick Schofield

Sir, Penguin Books' claim that they were first in their field (special report, September 6) needs qualifying: is this not an example of the "log in Channel, Continent isolated" syndrome?

During the 1920s and 1930s, paperback books in English were freely available in Europe under the imprint of Fauschitz, Albatross and others. I still have books bought by my parents in bookshops and at railway stations when we lived in Italy.

Penguin Books were and are super, but they were not the first.

Yours faithfully, JEAN SCHOFIELD, 6/7 Willerton Lodge, Bridgewater Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

From Mr M. G. Jordan

Sir, Philip Howard, in his adulation of Penguins, surely overstates the case. Cheap editions were produced in the Victorian era. I have a catalogue of "Bohn's Cheap Series" dated 1861.

As for paperbacks being an invention of the 20th century I have a paperback (with many of its pages still uncut) dated 1779. It is a guide to Canterbury known as *Gosling's Walk*.

I suppose that 18th century paperbacks were produced with the idea that the purchaser would wish to supply his own personal style of binding.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL G. JORDAN, Tall Trees, Middle Hill, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey.



ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 11 1800

The new popular feature of an extract from the "book of the day" appears to be of early origin.

THE RIVER POLICE.

From Mr COLQUHOUN'S Treatise on the Commerce and Police of the River Thames. (Continued from this paper of Tuesday last.)

2. NIGHT PLUNDERERS.

This class is chiefly composed of gangs of the most dissolute of the Watermen, who prefer idleness to labour, and indulge in every kind of low extravagance. . . . Their depredations are chiefly confined to unprotected Lighters, which are generally pointed out to them by watchmen who are associated in the same criminal pursuits, and share in the booty. On discovering by this means where plunder is to be obtained, their practice has been to provide themselves with a lug-boat, seized on for the purpose, to proceed to these unprotected Lighters at midnight; and to remove such parts of their cargoes as are accessible and portable. This they convey immediately to the place settled by the Receiver, or criminal purchaser, and there deposit the spoil. One instance of this kind occurred in January 1799: when a gang of these miscreants were detected in the act of stealing a lug-boat with Hemp, from a Lighter near St. Catherine's Dock. . . . It turned out on a full investigation that five boat loads of Hemp, averaging about 15 cwt, each had been stolen in the course of a few weeks, and conveyed through London-Bridges to Ranelagh Creek: two of the five boats were carried down in the day time openly to the warehouse of a Receiver in the City; while the other two were conveyed up to a wharf near the premises of the same Receiver, and delivered by the thieves themselves, with every appearance of its being a fair transaction, and without any suspicion being excited to the contrary, although the goods were actually stolen the night before.

The mode, however, which is practised in conveying these articles, differs according to the nature of the goods which are stolen. While in some cases, delinquents are less liable to detection, from the great extent of the Metropolitan, in removing their plunder to the repositories of the Receiver in open day; so in others, where articles are subject to seizure by Officers of the Revenue, a nocturnal expedition is planned. The fraudulent purchaser is apprised of the design, and remains up during the night, with open doors, ready to receive his associates in criminality. The watchmen in the track through which they are to pass, being generally his neighbours, or perhaps under his immediate influence and control are seduced by a small gratuity to allow the smuggling contraband to pass unnoticed, and the plunder is, by this means, secured in its transit, and is speedily out of the reach of danger.

In the month of October, 1798, a lighter was robbed of five casks of American ashes [sic] of the value of \$80, and upwards, which were carried at midnight in bags to the house of an upstart receiver, who sat up two different nights to receive the booty. He remunerated the thieves, by paying them about a quarter of the value, besides repaying them with a supper and liquor. The receiver then received half-a-crown for his civility in taking no notice of the transaction.

Nit long since, a boat, with two trunks of printed Mullins, of considerable value, was overtaken and seized about midnight, together with two of these night plunderers by the Marine Police. Surveys. On examination before the Magistrate, it appeared that one of the culprits had entered as a Mariner for the voyage on board the vessel, merely for the purpose of affording him the means of plundering the cargo, while in the progress of storage. With this evil intention in his mind, he placed the two trunks in question in an accessible situation, close to the fore-scuttle, the key of which (for it was locked in the night) he took on shore during the day to the Receiver, who had agreed to purchase the booty when procured. The Receiver got a similar key made; the original being returned to the place where it usually hung in the binnacle, early in the afternoon, to prevent suspicion. A little before midnight, the two thieves went on board, opened the scuttle-hatch with the key, and the receiver had procured to be made, and the two trunks being placed in a situation to be handed up at once, they were removed into the boat without discovery, and the property would probably have never been heard of, had there not at the time been a vigilant guard upon the river.

Encouraged in this manner by the security against detection, and the resource for plunder, which was afforded by the transit of perhaps not less than two millions of packages, composing outward-bound cargoes, in the course of a year, it is certain that this species of depredation has for a long time been gradually increasing; and the River Plunderers, perhaps from the extent and value of the booty which is obtained, appear of late years to have preferred this mode of robbery, particularly since the establishment of the River Police, which has in so great a degree destroyed the system of pillage which prevailed in the homeward-bound West-India cargoes.

Whistle stop

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Mr Gareth Morris, my no-so-old flute professor, is too modest (September 7). Where other teachers had to demonstrate their requirements by singing tunelessly if they had no instrument at hand, he was (and I am sure still is) able to indicate the subtlest nuances as well as the most difficult passages with a fluteless embouchure of great agility and precision.

Incidentally, Sir Thomas Beecham had a note of comfort for compulsive whistlers. When someone (one of his wives?) expressed irritation and asked him to stop he replied, "You can only hear me whistling. I can hear the whole orchestra."

Yours faithfully, FRITZ SPIEGL, 4 Windermere Terrace, Liverpool.

From Mr Malcolm Dyer

Sir, I have no idea where all the whistlers have gone but thank heavens they have. Yours truly, MALCOLM DYER, The Ploch, Much Marcle, Ludbury, Herefordshire.

FREEZING CONDITIONS AT TORQUAY

The Liberal Party will not be discussing defence this year at its Assembly in Dundee. No doubt the Liberal nuclear disarmers will have something to say about the matter on the fringes of their gathering. But the Liberal Assembly itself will have no formal opportunity to register a response to the Social Democrats' defence decisions, at Torquay yesterday, in terms of nuclear unity, that is perhaps just as well.

On Monday Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal MP for Yeovil who last year led the successful revolt which committed the Liberal Assembly to support the removal of all American cruise missiles, announced a change of mind. It was designed to bring the two allies closer together on the issue which most divides them. In the light of the resumed disarmament talks, Mr Ashdown no longer holds that the anti-cruise policy is necessary. Instead he has adopted Mr David Steel's notion, deployed in the Liberal leader's bridge-building speech to the SDP at the weekend, of a mutual freeze on new deployments of nuclear weapons by both East and West.

The idea of a freeze (with the negotiated removal of cruise from Britain as part of the package) is now a central point of the endeavour to bring the Alliance parties' defence policies closer together. The Liberals' hope was that since they had moved to meet the SDP, the SDP would now move to meet them. That did not happen when the SDP conference yesterday voted on a number of amendments to its defence policy, most of which were designed to move the SDP closer to a non-nuclear position. All were unacceptable to the SDP leadership, and all were defeated. Amendments

designed to abandon "first use" nuclear capability (by reducing nuclear weapons to "second strike" deterrence); to substitute "no first use" for "no early use" in the party's policy; to cancel Trident "immediately, in the event of an Alliance government"; and calling for drastic cuts in defence expenditure were all voted down. There was a strong streak of anti-nuclear doctrine in the speeches and a not insignificant number of anti-nuclear votes. But the platform had its way. As one dissatisfied sponsor of a defeated amendment put it: the Liberals had moved, but the platform had not moved in such a way as to produce the "right" policy.

In one respect however the SDP leaders did make a small concession. The party's defence document, after naming an actual negotiated reduction in nuclear weapons as the priority aim, goes on to state: "If these are not obtainable we will explore a negotiated freeze as a holding step." Mr Tom McNally, a former SDP MP, whose pro-western stance is unchallengeable, proposed an amendment which would commit the party, if the new round of negotiations achieved no momentum in reversing the arms race, to "press for a policy of negotiated freezes and verification".

The distinction between "explore" and "press for" is a fine one, and Mr McNally made no bones about the reason for his amendment. The party needed an agreement on defence with the Liberals and a party conference, which was a time for negotiation, could send a message. The message it should send to the Liberals was that although the SDP was not a unilateralist

party, it shared their concern with disarmament.

For the sake of unity, the platform supported the amendment, though Mr John Cartwright, the defence spokesman, admitted that they preferred their own words and pointed out that if it proved to be impossible to get arms reductions, it would be even more difficult to get a negotiated freeze. Politically this concession was wise, and it may seem that the whole argument yesterday dealt with insubstantialities.

Yet although one of the movers of these amendments denied any unilateralist presence behind them, they do reflect the existence of a small anti-nuclear, or unilateralist, element in the SDP, small though it is compared with its Liberal counterpart. Tactics have changed and the nuclear disarmers today now probe for the weak spots in order to be able to shift their party's policies in their direction, however imperceptibly. The general drift of the defeated amendments was a sign of these tactics, and even the attachment to the new "freeze" fashion has for some, though by no means for all, something of this about it.

The argument in yesterday's debate also illuminates once again the differences between the Liberals and the SDP. Formally, even on defence they are not very large as far as official policy is concerned. The real differences are in the personalities of the two parties and a great deal of the argument about defence at Torquay this week reflected that. The pressures to reach an accord are understandably intense, but they are not the best basis for producing a coherent defence policy.

Way forward in Ulster

From Mr James Munn

Sir, While Mr Douglas Hurd and Mr Christopher Patten are to be congratulated on their respective promotions, it is to be hoped that the fruits of their labours at the Northern Ireland Office will not be squandered and that the Government will not once more recoil from forging an agreement with the Irish Government on a joint approach to the Ulster problem.

All too often British Government insensitivity and an apparent lack of willingness to follow through initiatives have threatened to undo months of painstaking groundwork. Surely this time Britain must actively pursue the opportunity for progress in Northern Ireland with a Taoiseach who appears to genuinely seek solutions rather than cynical political point-scoring, as did another.

Hopefully Mr King will bring to his new post all the enthusiasm and zeal he has publicly professed for the task but also awareness of Irish sensibilities. The British Airports Authority, one of Mr King's former dependencies, during his brief spell as Transport Secretary, has recently launched an advertising campaign. The caption "Where in the world would Britain be without Heathrow" is emblazoned across a map showing a vast expanse of open sea between the shores of Continental Europe and North America: Britain, that is to say the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is nowhere to be seen - strangely, neither is Eire.

I know the advertisement does not mean to cause offence. The point is that it does. I use it merely to illustrate a wider British attitude towards Irish matters that has heightened relationships in the past, often unintentionally. One hopes the Government will make it clear to the Republic that Northern Ireland has not again been placed on the back-burner and that recent progress, as reported in the Press, is not deemed to have prematurely run its course.

That this Government has finally acknowledged the urgent need to improve its standing with the British electorate is to be welcomed, but it must not lose sight of the fact that its Irish counterpart has also to keep faith with its own electorate and that it has already invested a great deal of political capital in pursuing a policy of constructive co-operation.

Yours faithfully, JAMES MUNN, 9 Grandison Road, Clapham Common, Westside, SW11, September 6.

Control of the Broads

From Mr E. G. Gilbert

Sir, Sir Peter Scott supports the Broads Bill because it will create one authority for the whole of Broadland.

Between my riverside garden at Beccles and the marsh on the other side of the river Waveney (no more than 50 yards) the following authorities have jurisdiction:

On the Suffolk side - Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Beccles Town Council; on the Norfolk side - Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk District Council, Gillingham Parish Council and Lower Waveney Internal Drainage Board; the river bed - Crown Commissioners; navigation - Port-Haven Commissioners; river banks, water flow and fishing - Anglian Water Authority; supervi-

ory - Broads Authority and Nature Conservancy Council.

If the new Broads Authority is created it will take over from the present authority with additional powers and may replace the Port-Haven Commissioners as navigation authority - the other 10 authorities will, I believe, continue to exercise most of their present functions. Even then the new authority will not be responsible for maintenance of river banks, sea defence or Breydon Water which all seem to me to be fundamental to Broadland.

I don't believe big is beautiful, but that the larger an authority is and the more diverse its functions, the less control its members have and the more power its officers have.

Apart from the alleged benefit arising from having one authority I have not heard of any advantage to come to Broadland as a result of giving control of navigation to the

new authority in place of the experienced Port-Haven Commissioners - indeed I have heard it suggested that if control changes hands the new authority might employ the Port-Haven Commissioners as their agents to do the work.

It seems to me that the Broads Bill gives the new authority limitless opportunities to interfere and delay the work of existing authorities without vesting it with any real responsibilities - financed 75 per cent by the Countryside Commission or taxpayers and 25 per cent by the constituent authorities or ratepayers without control or limit.

Yours faithfully, E. G. GILBERT, Vista, Puddingmoor, Beccles, Suffolk, September 5.

AN ARMY IN POLITICAL DECLINE

Monday's attempt by about 500 military rebels to topple the Thai government did not come as a great surprise. The Thai army has long been involved in intrigue both within its own ranks and at a national level. Col. Manoon Rupekachorn, reportedly one of the key men in Monday's events, was the leader of the abortive 1981 coup attempt and last year figured in a flare-up between the army's rival factions. The renewed attempt at a seizure of power confirms that the rifts have widened.

It is also strong evidence of the increasing resentment within the military at the perceived erosion of its stature in Thai politics. Last year General Harn Lananond took the unprecedented step of resigning his commission in order to pursue full-time politics. His action reflected growing dissatisfaction among senior army officers with the way in which civilian politicians discharge their duties. It also showed that he and other sympathetic to his way of thinking could not find a way of influencing the conduct of government from within the army.

In August the military bloc suffered a narrow defeat in

opposing a controversial bill on electoral reform, proposed by former prime minister Kukrit Pramoj and backed by the ruling four-party coalition. But if the soldiers are finding that they cannot have their own way, the civilians in the government have to fight hard for theirs. This has inhibited the formulation of decisive policy at a time when Thailand is beleaguered with worries. For army officers favouring a hard line, it can only add to the feeling of frustration.

The wavering fortunes of the military have become increasingly linked to those of the supreme commander General Arthit Kamlang-ek, who was out of the country at the time of the coup. Despite attempts to mediate between rival factions, he has had no success in instilling unity within the army. Today he seems even further from his goal. Earlier this year he was forced to intervene in the Mac Chamoy chief-fund scandal in order to prevent accusations of military complicity in shielding a pyramid-scheme operator. (Numerous military families had investments in the fund.) By doing so however he opened the way for a full investigation and possibly provided, still more political

ammunition against military influence in civilian affairs. Equally unfortunate for him - and the army's - credibility have been the warlike pronouncements he has made on the border situation with Cambodia at a time when most countries in the region, including perhaps his own, would have preferred to hear more conciliatory tones.

A factor continuing to obscure the true status of the army within the formal power structure is the strength of its informal access to the royal family. During the 1984 incident involving Col. Manoon much use was made of these ties to allow the situation to be rapidly defused. But the prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanonda, has also made considerable use of the king's favour, for instance in securing the upper hand over General Arthit himself in their disagreement on the devaluation issue last November.

The civilian authorities now facing the task of restoring full order may have to decide to help General Arthit in bringing stability to the military. Alternatively and perhaps preferably it seems as good an opportunity as any to downgrade the army's political role.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Spectacular production of disparate gifts

The Alchemist

Lyric, Hammersmith

It is in the nature of English actors to move around inside the profession, but it is not often that you find RSC contract players, West End stars and alternative comedians sharing the same stage. They have been brought together by Griff Rhys Jones - an artist who has done his own share of jumping over boundaries - and who has thrust them into Jonson's furnace in the evident hope of transmuting their various metals into gold.

That bit of alchemy has not quite come off, but neither has the experiment followed Subtle's example and gone up in flames. What arrives on the Lyric stage is a vibrant and spectacular production by a company whose separate qualities benefit from not having been melted down in the ensemble crucible.

The qualities of the show are implicit in Roger Glossop's set: a flimsy stairway leading to two upper levels, full of dark hidey-holes and looking down on a much-curtailed thieves' kitchen crammed with Subtle's tools of trade. Including the glowing furnace and a fine array of stinks-cupboard equipment. You cannot imagine Lovewit living in such a place, and it is not until the last act that a small iron gate is identified as his front door. But it looks, and proves to be, a fine piece of comic machinery, especially when steam comes hissing out of unexpected vents in the bannisters.

Heralded with a mock-menacing arrangement of Bach's best-known toccata, the action erupts all over this



Stephen Moore's Subtle (right), going through a gallery of transformations while making every word count, with Gavin Richards's Face, more dependent on action and joke voices

adventure playground in the manner of a carefully prepared firework display. Face and Subtle first storm on for a duel with swords and acid, before having their heads set on by Sylvester le Touzel's invincible Dol. Kasirli, trying to lay hands on his sister, finds himself climbing over heaps of bodies on the stairs. Sir Epicure, paying court to Dol, tries to disrobe her as if wrestling with a recalcitrant sardine can; and when - with the neighbours clamouring in the street - she finally descends to the long-forgotten Dapper as the Queen of Fairy, it

is in crown and white chiffon on a wire from the flies. The costume is roughly mid-Victorian, which is another pointer to what has happened to the play. It is as though Johnson's world has re-emerged as one of the darker booths in *L'Amour Paris*. In other words, the size of the characters' appetites, and the richness of language, have been diluted. The text is all there; but much of it delivered at a tremendous lick, so that the first verbal laugh comes when Face (Gavin Richards) follows up a series of torrential exchanges by sulkily

remarking "Twas his fault". His performance depends on action and a repertoire of joke voices, rather than on making the language work for him. Still more is the case with Mr Jones's Sir Epicure: anachronistically costumed in Regency pantaloons, and diminishing Jonson's monster into a perky, blanch-faced fop who notches up every point as if with neat strokes of a toffee hammer while suppressing the surging excess of the lines. Full-blooded Jonsonian performance is found only in Stephen Moore's Subtle, who

goes through a gallery of transformations while making every word count. When the alchemical project explodes with huge repeated detonations, Mr Moore is able to cap it by falling flat on his face with Old Testament denunciations of his backsliding client. Among the other dupes, John Sessions brilliantly wrenches Ananias away from Puritan stereotype, and there is a winningly pathetic Abel from the hairless Paul Bown.

Irving Wardle

Southampton International New Music Week

Arditti Quartet

Turner Sims Hall

Although Hans Werner Henze is in residence at the Southampton International New Music Week only because illness forced György Ligeti to withdraw, the German-born composer is quickly proving to be the dominant personality in the proceedings. Part of his magnetism, perhaps, is attributable to his colourful and controversial life: his denunciation of the neo-fascism he sees lurking still; his public rows with other leading composers; his sardonically pol-

emical operas; and his Montepulciano experiment in community art. The central fascination, however, remains with Henze's intense musicianship, a quality confirmed by hearing the superb Arditti Quartet play his Quartets Nos 4 and 5, both composed in the mid-1970s. Not that writing chamber music stops this master dramatist from telling a story: the Fifth Quartet's six movements, for instance, attempt to portray a nightmarish vision, a subsequent feeling of nihilism, and a dawn that promises better things.

The musical material is a

mixture of conventional notation (the appearance of tonality, in a quotation from Henze's opera *We Come to the River*, paradoxically provides the quartet's most startling moment and its saddest music) and precisely calculated "effects", of which Henze's much-favoured high glissandos do most to instil the uneasy, dreamlike atmosphere. The Fourth Quartet is a less picturesque document, but no less fascinating. Its slow movement, presents an assured, modern-day fantasia on a Byrd pavan, while its finale is a convincing aleatoric exercise in which the first violinist deter-

mines mood, tempo and duration by his manipulation of 27 different themes. Characteristically, Irvine Arditti made it fast, fiery and fabulously virtuosic. In fact these players displayed skills and cohesion of the highest order throughout both works, and it is good news that they have now recorded all Henze's quartets. They also gave an impassioned reading of Berg's Quartet, Op 3. It was a concert that would have exhausted any ordinary string quartet; but I suppose it must be classified as one of the Arditti's lighter programmes.

Richard Morrison

Dance

Gaby Agis

Almeida

This is Gaby Agis: 25, beautiful, a dancer. This is the way I am, she appears to be saying on stage, with her straightforward, arresting manner: take it or leave it. On Monday this was also her new company, launched not at the Riverside Studios, where she is resident choreographer, but at the Almeida Theatre, for one week.

Gaby Agis and Company is the latest venture in a choreographic career which started two years ago. For it, she had produced a full-length piece - *L'adine and the Still* - with help from an all-female gang of performers, designers and composer (although some of the musicians on tape are men). This might suggest a feminist sisterhood of dance. But not so, according to Agis. The choice of women dancers (four, including herself) came about because

only they, she feels, can achieve the style of movement she wants. The Agis style is loose, unstructured, slow-paced. Long periods of stillness (a reference to the title?) are sometimes relieved by sudden flurries of activity, rippling hands and crawling about like creatures on the sea-bed. These performers, it seems, represent nymphs, clothed in pale, silky trousers and tops. Their antics are accompanied by the simple, repetitive melodies and sounds assembled by Ana da Silva, who appears to have travelled the

high seas for her inspiration, from the Far East to South America. The show lasts about an hour, but feels rather longer. The contribution from the painter Graca Coutinho is unremarkable: a mound of sand during the second half; a narrow abstract-painted drop during the first. Agis's intentions, like the significance of her title, are not entirely clear. Take it or leave it, she seems to be saying. So far, I prefer to leave it and watch her dancing other people's work.

Nadine Meisner

'WERE THE TALKIES' REALLY INVENTED LONG BEFORE 'THE JAZZ SINGER'

BY AN ECCENTRIC ARISTOCRAT ON BOARD AN IMPERIAL RAILWAY CARRIAGE IN THE MOST OF THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR?

ALAN GEMMA JENNY HOWARD JONES AGUTTER

BREAKING THE SILENCE

BY STEPHEN POLIAKOFF DIRECTED BY RON DANIELS

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SUNDAY TIMES

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Music in London

BBC Scottish SO/ Maksymuk

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Much of the music in this Prom, with the conspicuous exception of one piece, could hardly be called great, yet nor was it inept. By the same token the playing of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra was not exactly vintage stuff, though Jerzy Maksymuk coaxed from them performances that were rather more than serviceable. Of such evenings, I suppose, is our staple musical diet largely made.

And who should object to that if new music as evocative as Martin Dalby's *Nozze di Primavera*, written for last year's St Magnus Festival, is considered to be part of such everyday fare? It is a piece that harmlessly inhabits a dream-world of idealized romantic feelings. Within its dense

textures swirl myriad elaborately decorated lines, incidentally providing plenty of opportunities for the wind players to shine, if fleetingly. Moreover, Dalby organizes his sounds in a deceptively sophisticated manner, more so than does Delius, with whose work the programme note compared the piece. A medieval Orcadian plainsong and a cipher fashioned from a Latin text, impossible to recognize aurally, form the work's building blocks; and at the end one feels a progression to have been made, a deep, sensuous breath to have been slowly exhaled.

But Dalby's was not the great work of the evening. That honour fell to Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony, where Maksymuk, after a relatively heavily weighted first movement, opted for some fast, slick tempos. The woodwind were pleasingly prominent, though I disliked the principal oboe's wide and steady vibrato, while the strings

in all but a few places sounded secure and crisp in articulation. String numbers were drastically cut for the same composer's G major Violin Concerto, K216, not, I think, among Mozart's very finest works, for all its expansive beauties. Iona Brown was a strong and positive soloist, singing the sweetest of lines in the Adagio and almost threatening to overwhelm the rather timid orchestra elsewhere with her beguilingly firm sound.

More positively, orchestral playing was heard in Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, the "Little Russian", given here in the more familiar, but still relatively little played, revised version. Again, scarcely the man's best music, though the orchestral colouring of the whole and the feverish, scintillating finale are almost enough at times to convince one otherwise.

Stephen Pettitt

Arditti Quartet

ICA

Posterity, no doubt, will judge dispassionately all the composers we have heard in the Musica series, which ended this week. Meanwhile, at the risk of sounding pompous, I can only say that we ought to be lending the most sympathetic of ears to this sort of music, and encouraging such ventures as much as we can.

Even with such noble intentions, however, it was hard to stomach Morion Feldman's Clarinet and String Quartet (1983). During its 45 minutes its dynamic level never rises above a whisper, except where Feldman writes a note impossible even for Roger Heaton, the otherwise excellently controlled clarinetist here, to deliver at less than a relatively shrieking mezzo piano. Often the music

would, quite literally, plod along beat by beat: if it had been half an hour shorter we might have departed less intellectually anaesthetized.

The two quartets of Vic Hoyland, whose magic has been

one of the high points of the series, were altogether more exciting and assured. His Quartet Movement (1981) falls into four clear sections, within which Hoyland manipulates silences as deftly as sounds. The concentrated, fleeting patterns of sound that result recall at once the delicate poetry of Webern and the pregnant violence of Xenakis.

Stephen Pettitt

Shura Cherkassky wastes no time with false modesty. "Let me tell you about my character," he offers, while we are still shaking hands. "It's so much more interesting to talk about than music." The invitation is irresistible, given the many bizarre tales told about the small, dapper, Russian-born pianist. Even if it were not, he is unstoppable.

"I am a man of extremes and obsessions. I love heat. I adore beaches, perhaps because I was born in Odessa, though I haven't been back since I left Russia as a child. But I've heard they have mud beaches where you see men and women covered in mud. I want to go there. I love to swim. It's important for a pianist to have strong muscles."

This outburst, delivered in a flat transatlantic drawl, proves typical. Cherkassky speaks in anecdotes, putting in topic to topic without drawing breath. Beaches, bowls and Beethoven are recurring themes in that order. Trying to persuade him to talk about his forthcoming Proms is less easy. Tomorrow he plays Tchaikovsky's B flat minor Piano Concerto and on Saturday, the Last Night, the Gershwin Concerto - paying homage both to his Russian origins and his American citizenship. The most he will say about the music is: "Oh yeah, I adore both works. But what can I tell you? I just play them."

We are speaking in his cramped suite in London's White House Hotel, where he lives most of the year when not travelling and where he is packing his suitcase with rainbow-coloured shirts. "What do you think of this?" he asks, holding a peacock green silk mandarin jacket against his neat grey suit. "Or this?" - parading a tight cotton beach hat with "Acapulco" written across it.

But what about the music, and about being a virtuoso pianist admired the world over, more so now at the age of 73 than ever before? Those same old questions bore me. Oh Mr Cherkassky, what do you like to play and how do you practise and who's your favourite composer? I loathe them. Cherkassky's dismissive attitude towards the piano when not playing or practising is reflected by the instrument's position in his room, half-hidden behind a curtained alcove out of immediate view. But the nonchalance is misleading.

He tackles each piece afresh, as if for the first time, and makes new discoveries constantly. Indeed it is often observed that he never plays anything the same way twice; a repeat passage is not a repeat at all, but a chance to approach the same notes from another angle. "Sometimes I say to myself - and his voice drops to a self-mimicking whisper - "now shall I surprise them today and play this passage piano, or shall I shock them with a forte? I think I'll be naughty and shock them."

He admits that, over the years, he has curbed his more excessive quirks which his critics condemned. He no longer pulls tempi around to the same extent, or brings out inner voices in the music so forcefully. But he still enjoys an element of chance, often having no idea how he will play a work until he is on the platform. He says he cannot always explain, even to himself, how a particular technical or musical effect has been achieved.

Television

A taste of design

Had we wanted proof of the notion that the British are visually illiterate, *Designs on Britain* (BBC2) would have done nicely. Last night's beginning of a two-part profile of design in this country was itself visually unsatisfactory, and told its story in words rather than pictures.

Throughout the programme ran a plaintive theme, lamenting an alleged resistance to good design in this country. The documentary was subtitled *Design in a Cold Climate* and the commentary repeatedly expressed wonder that the British Government and public should have said "not in our house" to anything Bauhaus.

Stephen Bayley, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum's Conran Foundation, described the national taste as anti-industrial, anti-urban, and philistine, and bemoaned the influence of William Morris. Nevertheless, it is hard to separate successful design from public taste, and even harder to deny that public taste is formed by the concepts widely held to be important; there must be some reason why Habitat 67, Laura Ashley sprigged cotton and *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* are successful - and successful outside Britain, too.

The programme itself was



Shura Cherkassky (above) comes bouncing back to this week's Proms: interview by Fiona Maddocks

Extreme and obsession

constantly. Indeed it is often observed that he never plays anything the same way twice; a repeat passage is not a repeat at all, but a chance to approach the same notes from another angle. "Sometimes I say to myself - and his voice drops to a self-mimicking whisper - "now shall I surprise them today and play this passage piano, or shall I shock them with a forte? I think I'll be naughty and shock them."

He admits that, over the years, he has curbed his more excessive quirks which his critics condemned. He no longer pulls tempi around to the same extent, or brings out inner voices in the music so forcefully. But he still enjoys an element of chance, often having no idea how he will play a work until he is on the platform. He says he cannot always explain, even to himself, how a particular technical or musical effect has been achieved.

This natural, intuitive approach has always deterred him from teaching. "How can I tell someone how to do it when I don't know myself? Anyway, the thought bores me. I'm too egocentric. I think I once heard a child prodigy play somewhere, but so what? An artist has to be selfish and the best teachers are often not the best performers."

His own teacher, Josef Hofmann, was an exception and imbued his pupil with the grand nineteenth-century tradition of Romantic piano-playing - a tradition which has fallen out of fashion, and of which Cherkassky, together with Claudio Arrau, is one of the last living survivors.

In other respects Cherkassky inhabits his own private musical world. He shuns the company of fellow musicians, preferring people "a little more creative, especially theatrical types". He goes to concerts rarely, except to hear a bad artist. "To remind me how to play". He has never bowed to musical fashion. On the contrary, fashion bows to him. Audiences are discovering a new enthusiasm for his style of playing, as his Prom appearances and his growing international following indicate.

Cherkassky is a grand showman. Before a concert, his main worries are practicalities rather than notes - Will there be a clean towel in the dressing-room? Are his new shirtsleeves too long? But, once on stage, the egoist in him blossoms. Not for him the abashed shuffle to the piano favoured by most artists. Instead, he performs a nimble quickstep, followed by a pause, and a deep, unsmiling bow.

He remains stiff as he plays, watching his hands in fascination as if they belonged to another being - as indeed they might, covered as they are in thick black hair, grotesque in comparison to his otherwise smooth features. Once the music takes off, his fingers disappear in a wing-like pounding of notes. A favourite trick is to leap up from the piano on the last chord, thus ensuring immediate "bravos" from his audience.

But all this display is the result of rigid self-discipline, a characteristic which Cherkassky has always possessed and which orders all aspects of his life. "When I say I'll practise four hours, it'll never be three hours 59 minutes. I'm literal. My wife used to say she thought she was marrying an artist, not a neurotome. It's one of the reasons we divorced."

Celia Brayfield

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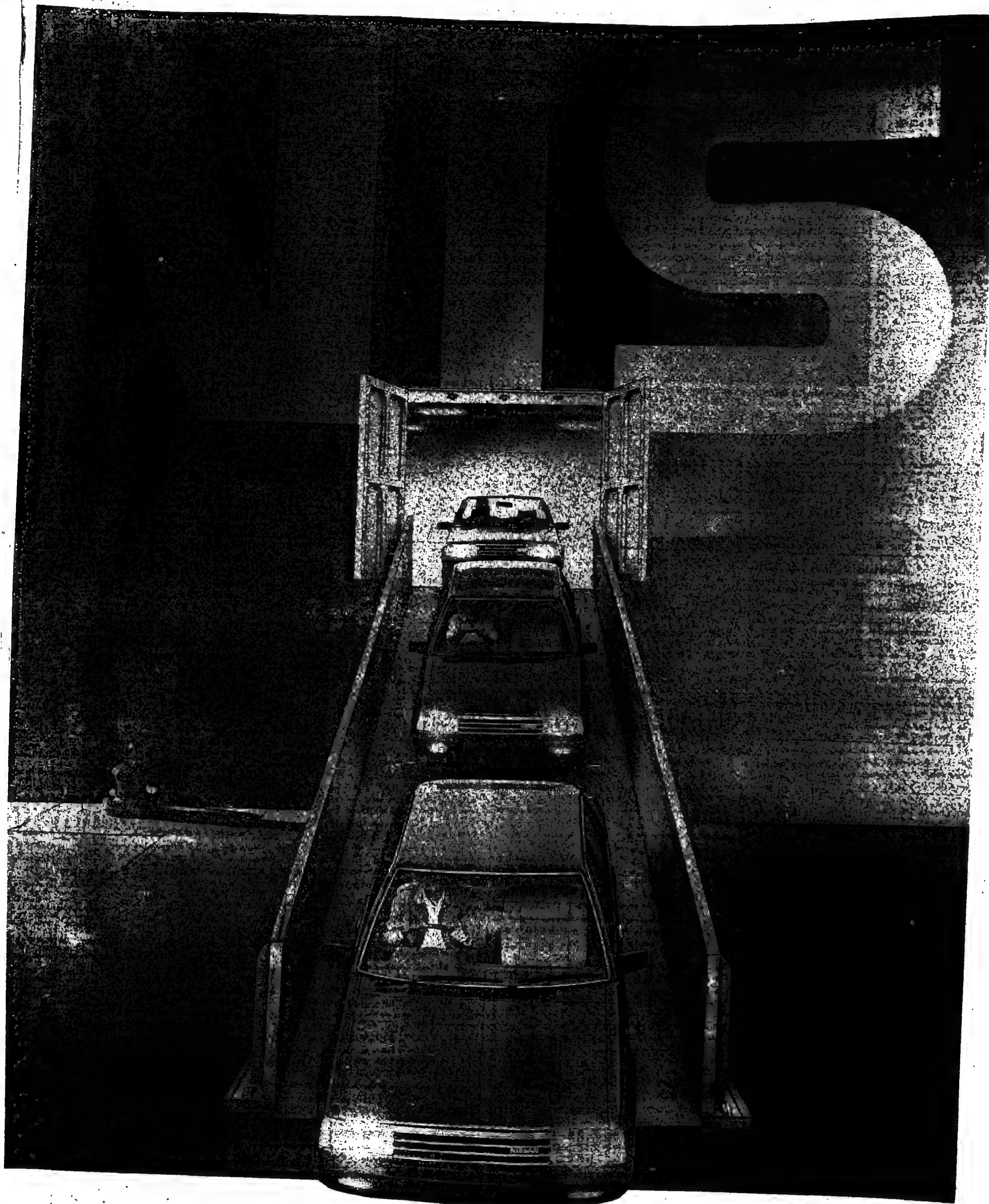
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12	Allen Lab	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
13	Alto	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
14	Barney Bates	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
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92	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
93	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
94	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
95	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
96	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
97	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
98	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
99	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9
100	Bell	132	0.2	2.8	65.9

444	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
445	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
446	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
447	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
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495	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
496	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
497	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
498	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
499	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2
500	Housemen	104	15.7	21.2

[illegible]

SHOES AND LEATHER					
188	PI	285		8.5	4.8
V70	Garret Book	211		12.5	5.9
51	Headman Glass	58	7.0	8.1	8.3
522	Lampert	133		7.2	8.2
53	Newbold & Dornin	12		4.6	8.9
54	Stewart	130		7.9	7.4
716	Strong & Fisher	100		6.7	4.8
948	Syko	189	7.0	8.4	8.5

TEXTILES	
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[illegible]

TOBACCOS					
283	BAT	321	-5	14.7	4.6
182	Reported	184	-	12.2	8.8
116	Forecast "	124	-2	8.1	7.4

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Signals for interest rates flashing on amber

The Bank of England's Rambrogram to the market yesterday came via the flash money supply figures for the August banking month. It read as if there is no justification for interest rates to fall. But if that is so, what are we to make of Monday's bill-doux from the Department of National Savings?

Unexpectedly, the 30th Issue of National Savings Certificates has been withdrawn and will not be replaced until September 26. This leaves the household sector largely untapped, a strange move if the Treasury and Bank of England care about containing monetary growth. More intriguing still, is the rate on the new issue of certificates has already been fixed at a point lower than the return over five years of 8.85 per cent on the 30th issue. These rates are fixed by the Treasury.

Either the sages at Great George Street have boomed, and plan to unleash a completely unsaleable certificate, or they envisage a cut in interest rates that would guarantee the appeal of the 31st issue. The gilt market was in two minds yesterday, but by the close sentiment was beginning to swing in favour of rate cuts.

The key indicator, sterling, "actually" stabilized yesterday as foreign exchange dealers seemed to read into the poor money data at least undoubted, if not higher, interest rates. The story could have quite a different ending. M.O., the Chancellor's favourite indicator, fell by 1/2 per cent, and this Friday could see the publication of a heart-warming August retail price index emerges.

Good inflation figures would make for welcome relief after yesterday's broad money figures. Growth over the month of 2 per cent, or £2.4 billion in money terms, and surging counterparts in both the public and private sector components suggest, taken together, that the Heath-Barber boom of the early seventies was actually a period of monetary restraint.

The public sector borrowing requirement was £1.8 billion, not a pretty figure to set against the 1985-86 target of £7.1 billion. Last year's comparable figure was £1.3 billion. Net sales of government debt were just £400 million.

The authorities were also lucky that the other counterparts to EM3 growth, like outflows across the exchanges, refused to turn positive. These helped to neutralize domestic credit expansion by a further £800 million. A neutral figure could have boosted broad money by a further 1/2 point.

The Committee of London Clearing Banks' report on the banking month of August notes a large increase in personal sector lending. House purchase finance again rose sharply by £337 million, and other personal borrowing was up by £254 million. Private sector sterling deposits rose by £954 million. According to the bankers, little net seasonal movement was expected, and part of the £1 billion underlying increase in deposits reflects an inflow of personal funds to the banks' high interest accounts.

This first point, in a sense, brings the argument full circle. The banks are lending heavily, and competing strongly for funds. It seems odd, therefore, for National Savings voluntarily to opt out of this scramble for deposits, and perhaps even miss its £3 billion target for 1985-86. Unless, that is, the whole of the UK wage structure is poised for change.

Savoy rises further out of reach

The stock market was ostentatiously unimpressed by the interim results from Savoy Hotel Group, leaving the widely-traded but low-voting "A" shares unchanged at 568p despite a 42 per cent increase in pretax profits to £4.7 million. The reason is not hard to find: the shares yield an historic 1 per cent and the prospects of a successful bid from Trusthouse Forte are as remote as they were the day before.

Not only do the high-voting Savoy trusts seem impervious to assault, the prize is being pushed further out of reach by the Savoy's newly acquired habit of regularly improving its performance. Lord Forte said ahead of the latest figures that the Savoy group should make £10 million profit for the year, and there is every indication that they will do that, with a bit to spare.

In the traditionally better second half last year Savoy made £4.7 million. Notwithstanding the recent strength of the pound, this tourist-laden summer should ensure a useful improvement on that. This despite increasing capital expenditure by £2 million, with a consequent growth in the depreciation charge.

Lord Forte could well seize on the comparatively modest improvement in gross receipts during the first six months, from £24.3 million to £27.8 million. One of the main planks of THF's campaign is that Savoy's glittering clutch of hostilities, which includes Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Connaught, could be more effectively marketed through THF's worldwide network.

While the Berkeley and the Connaught were operating at nearly 90 per cent of capacity during the unpromising January-to-June period, Claridge's and the Savoy itself were around three-quarters full. Adequate, but after that point every extra bed filled represents virtually pure profit.

In the remainder of the year, Ladbroke's recent sale of the bulk of the Savoy Apartments will generate service and other income for the hotel group. That should help to allow a slightly fatter dividend even if in retrospect, the sale to Ladbroke's was hardly clever. It afforded the Savoy's directors a little light relief to read this week's rumours of a possible bid for THF where a trust controls half the shares. That would be an irony indeed.

Shares fall after flight of fancy

Last year's strong performance by Willis Faber, the insurance broking group, led the stock market into flights of fancy that merely excellent figures 'could hardly sustain. So it proved. Yesterday's healthy results for the six months to June 30 promptly sent the share price down 20p to 704p.

Pretax profits moved ahead by nearly 28 per cent from £25.5 million to £32.6 million and the company's commentary on its figures is optimistic. As insurance premium rates have started to rise rapidly, all sections of Willis Faber's broking operation have benefited, though by no means yet to the full extent. Net retained brokerage and fee income brought in £53.1 million, an increase of £10.7 million compared with last year. As a large and highly-respected broking house with strong placing power, Willis Faber is exceedingly well-placed to take advantage of the contraction in underwriting capacity. Smaller brokers tend to lose out.

The other side of the higher premium coin is higher expenses. Willis Faber's expenses have risen £8.6 million to £44.6 million. The expense figure was also affected by the higher cost of professional indemnity cover and mounting provisions against bad debts as years of difficult markets take their toll on insurers. Provisions are about three times larger than for the same period last year.

The one big black spot in the results was underwriting. Although Willis Faber has taken steps to cut out the offending business, mainly non-marine excess of loss underwriting, the problems will not have disappeared by the end of the year.

With earnings per share up for the six months from 16.23p to 21.62p, the company is raising its interim dividend by 42 per cent to 5p a share. Its reputation has been upheld and, despite yesterday's testy reaction, the high rating of the shares is again assured.

Wine battle as White House builds tougher trade policy

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States wine industry is due today to file a trade restriction suit affecting \$700 million (£536 million) worth of wine exports from Europe in an action expected to trigger a bitter confrontation with the European Community.

Industry sources said the case was surfaced during a particularly difficult period when the Reagan administration was considering a series of tough new trade actions to appease influential protectionists in Congress.

President Reagan met key economic advisers at the White House yesterday to consider a broad new proposal designed to give the White House the political upper hand in managing the increasingly hostile trade debate in Congress.

If Mr Reagan accepts the proposal, prepared by Mr Clayton Yeutter, the new US trade representative, it may be unveiled over the next two weeks in an important address in which the President outlines a "trade policy" for his second term. White House officials said.

The plan as proposed by Mr Yeutter is intended to convince Congress that the White House is elevating the importance of trade policy by adopting a tougher stance in talks and actions against the largest US trading partners.

It includes:

- Creation of a \$300 million "war chest" to counter subsidized exports from Europe, Japan and other countries;

- The broadening of US trade laws to give the Administration more power to act against the "unfair" practices of other countries;

- Authority to launch a new round of global trade talks;

- The imposition of a two-year deadline on settling trade disputes filed with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr Yeutter has asked Congress to delay action on more than 300 protectionist Bills pending in both Houses until the Administration has an opportunity to present its own plan. The Administration has also sought to prevent the filing of the wine action against European producers, industry sources said.

But US wine producers and grape growers appear determined to refile a suit demanding the imposition of countervailing duties and dumping charges against wine exports from France, Italy and also Germany, which was excluded from a similar action last year.

European officials said because of the big volume of trade involved and the fact that wine is an emotional, nationalistic issue which "carries the flag", the case, if filed, will ignite a bitter dispute.

Wine is just one of a series of difficult trade issues which US and EEC officials must resolve by the end of next month, when deadlines expire on agreements affecting \$2.5 billion in steel exports from Europe and citrus and pasta exports.

Lloyd's ban Sasse as underwriter

By Richard Thomson

The ruling council of the Lloyd's insurance market has suspended Mr Frederick Sasse from working as an underwriter in the market seven years after the losses on syndicate under his control first came to light.

The council found him guilty of several offences, but it has also found him to be a non-working "name" at Lloyd's.

The so-called Sasse affair emerged in 1977 when the 110 names of syndicate 762 faced underwriting losses of £20 million. It was the first in a series of scandals which have since hit Lloyd's.

The charges against Mr Sasse included the claim that he had breached his duty of care to the names on his syndicate, that he had given Lloyd's misleading information on his activities and that he had exceeded the syndicate's underwriting limits.

Mr Sasse had given binding undertakings to overseas insurers, including a company called Den Har, to take on risks on the syndicate's behalf. This led to a large exposure to US and Canadian fire damage business.

The bulk of the syndicate's losses came from fire claims, many believed to be fraudulent. The binders were arranged by the brokers, Bentall Beard International, headed by Mr John Newman, who as voluntarily accepted suspension from working at Lloyd's.

The Lloyd's council found that Mr Sasse had failed to reinsure the syndicate's risks adequately and then, with Mr Newman, manipulated the syndicate's account.

When the losses came to light the names involved threatened to sue Lloyd's but a rescue package was arranged involving a contribution of £6 million by the whole market.

Rates cut for savers

The Government Department for National Savings has announced a reduction in interest rates paid to savers. From yesterday it withdrew from sale the 30th issue National Savings Certificate which paid interest of 8.85 per cent tax-free if held for five years.

A new 31st issue certificate will go on sale from Thursday, September 26, paying investors compound interest of 7.85 per cent tax-free after five years.

The change follows reductions in bank base rates last month and a 1.25 percentage point cut in most building society saving rates.

National Savings is also reducing the gross rate paid on Investment Accounts from 12.75 to 11.5 per cent from Monday September 23. Interest paid on Income Bonds and Deposit Bonds will fall on October 25 from 13.25 per cent to 12 per cent.

Richardson-Vicks puts up bid defence

Richardson-Vicks, the United States health care group, on the receiving end of a £950 million bid from Unilever, last night confirmed it had been buying its own shares in the stock market as part of its move to thwart the unwanted approach.

Saudis may offer discount on oil

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' agreement on prices appears to be on the verge of being broken by Saudi Arabia, its dominant member and probably the only one which has yet to breach either price or production rules.

Suggestions, circulating in the oil industry for the past week, that Saudi Arabia is about to supply Exxon's European refineries with 425,000 barrels a day at a price which includes \$4 a barrel discount on the official price were strengthened yesterday by reports in Kuwait.

In addition, Exxon has entered the tanker chartering market and contracted to take five tankers on three-month charter from October 1.

Significantly, the five tankers are of a size capable of passing through the Suez Canal carrying crude oil from the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu to the Exxon European refinery network.

Exxon has also taken an option to retain the tankers on a month-by-month basis beyond the end of the year, leading to further speculation that the Saudi deal will continue for several months.

It also appears that the Egyptian government, as operators of the canal, have been apprised of the deal and are understood to be prepared to offer cheaper rates - the normal charge would be around \$300,000 a voyage - in return for guarantee of a steady volume of traffic.

The Saudi deal, which is also understood to extend to contracts involving Shell, Mitsubishi of Japan, Texaco and Mobil, prices the crude oil involved at the European value of the resulting refined products.

It now seems that frustration at watching fellow Opec members offer indirect discounts coupled with a severe fall in foreign earnings and a rising budget deficit has forced Saudi Arabia to join in price discounting without having to significantly step up production.

Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, is on holiday in Sardinia, but he will offer an explanation of his country's actions at the next full ministerial meeting of Opec in Vienna on October 3.



Sheikh Yamani will explain to Opec

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Hammerson in £31m Paris deal

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Hammerson Property, one of Britain's largest property companies, is to buy property worth £31 million in the centre of Paris from the ICI Pension Funds.

The price will be met by the issue of Hammerson ordinary shares, which will result in the funds having a 5 per cent stake in the property company. The funds say they intend keeping the shares as a long-term investment.

The 16 freehold properties are mostly offices, including a 22,600 sq ft building in the Place Vendôme with retailing on the ground floor.

Mr Sydney Mason, the chairman of Hammerson, says net asset value will not be diluted by the deal and in the long-term it will improve from the 1984 year-end figure of 602p.

Hammerson has been looking for a portfolio of Paris properties for some time. The deal is believed to be the largest ever undertaken in Paris by a British developer.

Hammerson will weed out the properties it does not wish to retain in its portfolio and actively manage the rest by restructuring leases and refurbishing the space. It will take over ICI Pension Fund's property office in Paris and will manage its acquisition and other space retained by the fund from there.

Takeover Panel warns Argyll on bid

By Jeremy Warner

Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Group was given a stern warning last night by the Takeover Panel to stand by the statement it made last week that it had no intention of bidding for Distillers "at the present time".

In a strongly-worded statement, the panel said it attached considerable importance to the public being able to rely on statements of intention. For this reason, it said, it would clearly not be acceptable for a statement of the kind made by Argyll to be followed very shortly thereafter by the announcement of an offer.

Stock market dealers had expected an imminent bid by Argyll for the drinks group which includes Johnnie Walker Red Label and Gordon's gin. But after a report in *The Times* yesterday which forecasted the panel's interpretation of Argyll's statement, Distillers' shares fell 20p to 388p.

The panel said that before Argyll made its statement, its adviser discussed the position with the panel and accepted that if a statement in such terms was made, Argyll should not make

an offer for a reasonable period which was agreed to be three to four months.

Sources close to Argyll said that the company's understanding of a reasonable period was only two to three months. However, last night's statement by the panel was agreed with Argyll.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Argyll's long-standing merchant bank, Samuel Montagu, may not be the lead bank in advising the consortium that Argyll is trying to put together to bid for Distillers.

Recruit for Guinness Peat board

Mr John Scater yesterday became the latest boardroom recruit to Guinness Peat Group, the merchant banking and financial services company.

Mr Scater, aged 45, is chairman of Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, a director of Union Discount Company and a trustee of the Grosvenor Estate.

The Guinness Peat appointment comes at a time when it is believed the company is considering a stock market flotation for Fenchurch Insurance Holdings, the insurance broking offshoot.

The idea would be for about 25 per cent of the equity to be released, enabling the group to put a market value on the rest of its holding.

Spurs looks outside football for profits

Tottenham Hotspur, the stock market's only listed football club, is looking to its non-football interests to provide a defence against the problems affecting the game.

Spurs yesterday reported full year figures showing that its exit from the profitable UEFA Cup last season contributed to a slump in profits from £902,000 to £687,000. About 15 per cent of profits come from catering, sponsorship and broadcasting.

Wellcome plans £60m launch

Wellcome Foundation, the pharmaceutical company, plans to raise £60 million on more for itself when it comes to the stock market in January. The company is expected to be valued at about £1.25 billion.

Wellcome Trust, the research charity which owns 100 per cent of the foundation, will sell 20 per cent of the shares.

A further 5 per cent will be issued to raise new money.

Saxon merger support wains

Saxon Oil's shareholders have substantially withdrawn their support of the proposed merger with Charterhouse Petroleum. At yesterday's closing, acceptances had been received from shareholders representing 7.45 per cent of the capital, well down on the 38.13 per cent of last week.

Large withdrawals had been expected.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord 1006.8 (-13.7)	INSE:	London:
FT All Share 638.85 (-6.90)	Barr & Wal. Arnd. 150 +22	£: \$1.3145 (+0.0093)
FT Govt Securities 82.70 (-0.19)	Edmond Holdings 11.5 +1.5	£: DM 3.8586 (+0.0181)
FT SE 100 1311.4 (-17.9)	Select 9 +1	£: SwFr 3.1942 (+0.0185)
Bargains 22,430	Hestir 88 +4	£: FF117.7822 (+0.0571)
Dataseam USM 107.46 (-0.22)	Barr & Wal. Arnd. "A" 123 +10	£: Yen 318.78 (+21.07)
New York	TSL Thermal Synd. 215 +15	£ Index: 80.0 (+0.1)
Dow Jones 1338.14 (-1.11)	Oilfield Inspec. 80 +5	New York:
Nikkei Dow 12,519.54 (+63.82)	CPU Computers 35 +2	£: \$1.3150
Hong Kong:	Memcom Int. 90 +5	£: DM 2.9655
Hang Seng 1,546.31 (-4.52)	SI Group 38 +2	£ Index: 141.8 (+0.2)
Amsterdam Gen. 220.8 (-0.7)	FALLS:	ECU/N/A
Sydney: AO 956.0 (+1.1)	Sycamore Holdings 7 -2	SDR 20.773627
Frankfurt:	Hollis 68 -17	
Commerzbank 1,515.5 (+17.0)	Bleiswood Hodge 34.5 -5.5	
Brosseke 430.83 (-5.72)	Assd. Brit. Engg. 4.5 -0.5	
General 222.6 (-0.8)	Micro Business Sys. 83 -9	
Pacific CAC	Apricot Computer 95 -10	
	Adam Leisure Gp. 10 -1	
	Automotive Prod. 74 -7	
	Barclayan 2.75 -0.25	
	Bugha, A. F. "A" 50 -5	
	Calcom Resources 72 -8	
	Compartex Hds 26 -2	
	Bio-Isolates 186 -12	
	Bedford, William 7 -0.5	
	Metal Sciences	

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The Peterborough Effect

IN BRIEF

Suspension for LOFs

Shares of London & Overseas Freighters were suspended yesterday as bankers made a last effort to save the shipping company from collapse. If talks with the Japanese Sumitomo Bank succeed, then LOFs could be left with just one vessel but the chance of survival.

LOFs' problems have been apparent for some time and the ordinary shares stood at just 1 1/2p at the suspension.

LOFs' main bankers, Williams & Glyn's Bankers Trust and Bank of Nova Scotia may be prepared to back a restructuring. This would involve Sumitomo taking over LOFs' two product tankers, against which its debt is secured, and leave LOFs with just one 138,000-ton carrier.

Suter increase

Suter, the engineering company, lifted profits from £1.71 million to £4.21 million before tax in the six months to June 29. Turnover was up from £22.1 million to £51.0 million and the dividend is up from 1.2p to 1.4p. *Tempus, page 21*

Plans by textile company, Laura Ashley, for a Stock Exchange flotation are unlikely to be affected by the accident which occurred to Mrs Ashley herself at the weekend. Last night her condition was still very serious after a fall. A final decision on the flotation, planned for early next year, would not be taken for several months, according to a spokesman.

DIY rise

Home Charm, the DIY retailer, disappointed the stock market with a near 20 per cent rise in pretax profits from £4.7 million to £5.6 million for the half-year to June 15. The interim dividend rises from 1p to 1.2p.

Booker venture

Booker McConnell has launched a venture into the convenience stores business. Its first "Zipin" shop will open in Pottery Bar next month. Yesterday, the company announced pretax profits of £17.6 million up from £11.1 million for the half year to June 30. The interim dividend is increased to 4.25p from 2.75p. *Tempus, page 21*

Guinness plan

Fresh from its successful takeover battle for control of Bell, the Scotch whisky group, Guinness yesterday announced plans to move into the mail order business. About 1.5 million catalogues are being distributed.

Consafe move

The big Swedish offshore group, Consafe, has filed for bankruptcy after its main creditor, Svenska Vary, refused to change its position on a restructuring plan for the company.

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WALL STREET

Dow slips in early trade

New York (Reuters) - The stock market headed lower in early trading yesterday, as the advance of the previous two sessions stalled.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.46 points to 1,337.81. Declines led advances by four to three on turnover of 8.94 million shares.

Richardson-Vicks led the active up 7/8 to 47. The company rejected on Monday a \$54 per share merger offer from Linde, General Foods, which jumped 7/8 to 54. Monday takeover speculation was down 3/4 to 37 1/2.

Coca-Cola, which fell 1/4 on Monday on lowered earnings estimates by analysts, was down 1/4 to 67 1/2. IBM was down 1/4 to 129 1/2. General Motors was up 1/4 to 29 1/2. US Steel was down 1/4 to 29 1/2 and Exxon was down 1/4 to 52.

In Washington, the Treasury Department asked Congress to raise Federal borrowing authority to \$1.846 billion immediately and to \$2.078 billion for the year starting October 1.

Acting assistant treasury secretary, Mr John Nienke, also asked Congress to repeal the maximum interest rate the Treasury may pay on securities maturing in more than 10 years. This rate has been limited by law to 4 1/4 per cent.

The Kuala Lumpur tin price closed eight cents lower at 29.67 ringgit per kilo, due mainly to sterling's weakness against the ringgit.

In Washington, the Com-

COMMODITIES

modity Futures Trading on a 1985 Farm Bill, but action on commodity programmes must wait until food stamp and farm credit provisions are completed, sources said.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Rubber in 2 per cent. Soybean meal, coffee and cocoa in 2 per cent. Gas oil and sugar in US \$ per ton.

G W Johnson and Co report

Oil (all selling)

Oct 1985 500

Nov 1985 500

Dec 1985 500

Jan 1986 500

Feb 1986 500

Mar 1986 500

Apr 1986 500

May 1986 500

Jun 1986 500

Jul 1986 500

Aug 1986 500

Sep 1986 500

Oct 1986 500

Nov 1986 500

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hanson Trust unruffled by sale of 14 million shares

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Market eyes were focused on Hanson Trust yesterday as a line of 14 million shares came on offer at 205 1/4p. Savory Mills was the stockbroker firm handling the sale, and all went smoothly.

The shares were absorbed during lunchtime, the Hanson share price drifting down by 6p to 209p. That was a firm performance for the shares considering the weaker mood of the stock market.

The line of Hanson was believed to have come from the Kuwait Investment Office, which picked up many of the shares in the £519 million rights issue in July. KIO held 7.93 per cent of Hanson, after the rights, and is an obvious seller of the stock.

But the Prudential Assurance group also has more than 5 per cent of Hanson, and given that the 14 million shares sold yesterday represent only about 1 per cent of Hanson equity, is another possible seller. Like the

Laurence, Frust & Co. the broker, has placed 1,550,000 shares of Questel, which designs and markets sophisticated telephone systems, at 780p, a share. With a profit forecast of £1 million, the shares were offered at 12.9 times prospective earnings. USM dealings begin on Tuesday.

KIO, the Pru might wish to trim its exposure in the shares. Dealers and analysts alike were intrigued to see the stock come on offer at a time when the City is trying to work out its view on Lord Hanson's conglomerate. The pundits are wondering if Hanson will win SCM - the US group for which it is bidding \$900 million (£677 million) - and if it will make a further move on Bowerman Industries, where it has disclosed an 8 per cent stake.

Bowerman shares took a dip, down 15p to 350p. But that appeared to be largely in sympathy with the rest of the blue chip issues.

The FT 30-share index lost 12.5 points in the first hour of trading. Though there was some improvement during the day, by the close, the index was 13.7 points down at 1006.8.

The FT-SE 100 share market also showed a double-figure loss, with the index down 14.5 points in the first hour of trading. By the close, the day it was 17.9 points lower at 1311.4. According to Data-Stream, £3,000 million was wiped off market values.

Money supply figures were at the heart of the problem, with the City worried at the apparent 2 per cent growth in M3 last month. Added to that, problems in the oil market hurt confidence, and were a further drag

on shares and government stocks alike.

Gilt prices were as much as 1/2p lower at one stage, although the losses were after trimmed to around 1/4p in short-dated and 3/4p in long-dated issues. The City sees small hope of further cuts in interest rates against this background.

Distillers Company saw its shares drop 20p to 388p as market hopes for a quick announcement from Argyle Group faded. The Argyle bid looks to be definitely off for this Stock Exchange account, and may be several accounts away.

Argyle shares responded with a 15p gain to 325p, and the City was full of talk about merchant banking arrangements for the deal. Mr James Gulliver, chairman of Argyle, is believed to have enlisted the help of both Hill Samuel and Lazard Brothers alongside Samuel Montagu, its usual adviser.

The other big bid story also displayed plenty of action. Allied-Lyons shares drifted 7p lower to 270p while Elders IXL gained 3p to 178p. City reports suggested that Allied is following the attack line of defence and buying Elders shares.

Racal Electronics fell 3p to 123p before settling at 132p after a dinner on Monday between Sir Ernest Harrison, the company chairman, and James Capel & Co., the broker.

Mr Doug Hawkins, the broker's electronics expert, has downgraded his profit forecast for this year from £155 million to £125 million. Last year Racal produced £132.8 million and if the Capel forecast is correct it will be the first time for several decades the group has suffered a fall in profits.

Mr Hawkins still admires Sir Ernest and says Racal has the best management in the electronics business. He believes that the shares have no short-term attraction for performance funds but they still have long-term appeal.

Hoare Govett and Scrimgeour Vickers, the brokers, recently cut profit forecasts to around £125 million. Sir Ernest declined to make a forecast and repeated his earlier hope that

the company would be able to

both BP and Laseco, reflecting the trading in oil shares on the main market and concern about world fuel prices. BP January and October calls showed losses of up to 17p, while the put contracts were higher by 13p and 14p in places. Laseco February 230 calls lost 13p, with puts up by similar amounts.

Glaxo and ICI options were also showing sizeable changes



Lord Hanson: bidding \$900m for SCM

Racal would achieve another profit advance.

STC rose 6p to 96p the market got hold of a story that Mr Peter Marshall, a director of the Plessey telecommunications group, was about to move in as chief executive.

But denials trimmed the STC gain to 94p and Plessey rose 2p to 142p on hopes that the American authorities would disclose today its preliminary thoughts on the massive mobile battlefield communication contract for the US Army.

On the property pitch Edmond Holdings jumped 1 1/2p to 11 1/2p making a two-day gain of 3p. The market is convinced that Taddale Investments, the over-the-counter traded group, is about to sell its near 25 per cent shareholding. Mr Ronnie Aitken, the "company doctor" accountant, is thought to be involved in the purchase of the Taddale stake.

Lucas Industries jumped to 380p at one time on talk of a buyer seeking a 3 per cent share stake. Woolworth Holdings, after Monday's aborted placing, fell 13p to 465p after touching 458p.

Dunston Group, the property and civil engineering business, held at 24p after profits of £23,000 (against £97,000) and a maiden dividend.

WSL Holdings, the old Wolverhampton Steam Laun-

dry, was also unchanged at 65p. L. Messel & Co. has been appointed broker to the company.

The group is being revitalized by Mr David Ellingham and Mr Peter James and acquisitions and disposals can be expected within the next few months.

John Kent, the men's wear retailer, rose 1p to 51p after it announced profits of £870,000 (£626,000). James Capel & Co. has become broker to the company.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries fell 7p to 176p as take over hopes faded. Greene, King & Sons halved an early loss to 2p at 230p. Greenall Whitley lost 5p at 190p.

Barr & Wallace Arnold, the coach and hotels group, was excited by the arrival of a new 5 per cent shareholder, Kerry Firth. The "A" shares rose 10p to 123p and the ordinary 22p to 152p.

Apricot Computers, the Birmingham group which this year changed its name from Applied Computer Techniques, saw its share price drop heavily yesterday on talk of a big stock writedown. One leading broker was also concerned that a visit scheduled for next week has been cancelled, and that directors spent most of yesterday in a board meeting. The shares fell 15p to 90p.

Suter gained 6p to 150p after its profit advance and Whitworth Electric (Holdings), where Suter has disclosed a near 10 per cent shareholding, gained 5p to 83p. Oils were unsettled by the Saudi Arabian decision effectively to cut crude prices.

British Petroleum led the retreat with a 13p fall to 553p. But Barmah Oil, after suffering a 9p decline to 300p, quickly made good much of the loss to close at 306p as take over thoughts returned to influence sentiment.

Willis Faber, the insurance broker, fell 20p to 704p as profits disappointed but the profit recovery helped Hestair to gain 4p to 86p.

Burns Anderson, the mini-conglomerate, gained 3p to 61 1/2p on hopes that the American inspired financial package, rejected by shareholders, was about to be re-presented in a more favourable form.

Blackwood Hodge fell 5 1/2p to 34 1/2p as profits disappointed but Expanet rose 3p to 119p after its 29 per cent gain.

Ahead of figures due today, Costain slipped 6p to 436p and Reckitt & Coleman 10p to 505p. Booker McConnell fell 17p to 386p after its figures.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **CAPITAL TELEVISION FACILITIES:** The final dividend is 1.75p (1.525p), making 2.45p on an increased capitalization of (2.10p). With figures in £000, sales were 1,575 (1,229), pretax profit was 475 (376), after depreciation 271 (208), extraordinary credit was nil (57). Tax was 120 (83) and earnings per share were 3.45p (2.53p).

● **PERSIMMON:** The interim dividend was 1.75p (nil), payable on October 21. With figures in £000, turnover was 12,434 (10,456) for the six months to June 30. Pretax profit was 1,054 (878), tax was 436 (319) and earnings per share were 6.4p (6.9p).

● **SALE TILNEY:** The interim dividend is 1.5p (1.63p). With figures in £000, the turnover was 33,093 (31,999) for the half-year to May 31. Pretax profit was 1,373 (1,035), tax was 456 (228), minority debts were 24 (17), extraordinary credit was 777 (nil). Earnings per share were 6p (5.4p).

● **SHEAFRANK PROPERTY:** The company intends to restate the dividend on ordinary shares in respect of the year to March 31. With figures in £000, gross rental income was 501 (262). Pretax profit was 25 (28), tax credit was 103 (charge 4), minorities were 0.8p (0.8p), extraordinary credit was 51 (89 credit). Earnings per share were 1.09p (0.18p).

● **THE BATH PRESS:** For the year ended March 31, sales increased by 16 per cent to £7,475 million, the pretax profit was £153,000. The chairman, Mr Nigel Reynolds, says in his statement: "This is still a long way from an adequate return for so much effort although a real movement in the right direction".

● **BARR AND WALLACE ARNOLD:** Wayhead Fuel Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary has purchased the business and assets of United Fuel Oils, a wholly-owned subsidiary of United Guarantee (Holdings). The price has not been disclosed.

● **MAXVOW FOODS:** With figures in £000, turnover was 20,885 (17,766) for the year to May 31. Pretax profit was 1,225 (1,015).

● **LONDON MERCHANT SECURITIES:** With figures in £000, pretax profit was 16,442 (13,138) and the year to March 31. The total dividend is going up from 1.85p to 2.2p.

● **JOHN KENT:** For the year to May 25, with figures in £000, turnover was 12,317 (9,967) and pretax profit was 870 (624). The total dividend is being raised from 0.8p to 1.5p.

● **BREKIMATE:** For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 5,536 (4,376), and pretax profit 276 (196). The interim dividend is 1p.

● **MAGNOLIA GROUP (MOLINDS):** With figures in £000, turnover was 7,003 (5,317) for the half-year to June 30. Pretax profit was 481 (210). The interim dividend is being raised from 0.6p to 0.75p.

● **MEDIA TECH INTERNATIONAL:** With figures in £000, turnover was 6,020 (4,859), for the year to May 31. Pretax profit was 2,037 (1,189). A dividend of 1.6p is being paid.

● **BLACKWOOD HODGE:** With figures in £000, turnover was 103,627 (101,231) for the half-year to June 30. Pretax profit was 4,926 (4,926). Comparisons have been adjusted.

● **F & C EUROTRUST:** For the year to June 30, a dividend of 1.7p (1.6p) is being paid. The total revenue was £257,237 (£298,191) and tax was £105,727 (£74,584).

● **COOKSON GROUP:** Cookson has now acquired from BTR the remaining 50 per cent interest in Alpha Metals Hong Kong for US \$10.8 million (£8.3 million).

TEMPUS

Flat picture at Booker without Dee's shadow

For the first time since May 1984 Booker McConnell was able to present its figures without the ominous presence of Dee Corporation in the background. It seemed a little like Jerry without Tom. With the thrill of the chase removed, the Booker picture seemed subdued.

Although pretax profits at the interim stage were healthily up from £11.1 million to £17.6 million, and at the top end of analysts' expectations, the City refused to get excited. The general market slump provided the spur for some profit-taking and the Booker share price dropped 17p to 286p.

The reaction is understandable. At the beginning of 1984 the Booker share price was just 79p. Dee's intervention accelerated the steady rise. The final offer valued Booker at around 270p, but since Dee's departure the price has hardly suffered. This strength reflects the quality of Booker's underlying operations and is also a just reward for the shareholders who stood loyally by the company during the takeover battle.

Anyone expecting similar levels of excitement over the next 18 months will be disappointed. Instead, Booker will embark on a steady but unspectacular course of building up its three core businesses. Of these the Agribusiness has the most potential. It contributed £11 million in the half year up from £7.5 million, and its dominant position in the US broiler breeder market provides a solid base from which to expand.

The health product division registered a small increase in profits to £1.7 million, although there are still difficulties in the US.

It is the food distribution division, the main target for Dee's attention, which looks most out of place. It contributed 75 per cent of turnover but only 14 per cent of pretax profits. True, the bulk of its profits are made in the second half, but there is a suspicion that better returns might be earned elsewhere. The management has done an excellent job in improving its performance.

but has it been defended only to preserve the independence of the rest of the group?

Home Charm

Home Charm is embarking on an ambitious store expansion programme designed to meet the double-figure growth rates that the do-it-yourself market is showing year after year.

The group aims to add 30 per cent to its total retail selling area this year in a crash programme of store openings that will add 25 new outlets in the second half alone.

The growth rate will continue into next year, when the group plans to pioneer a new concept in DIY retailing by opening two 70,000 sq ft superstores.

All this is already beginning to take its toll on short-term profits. Yesterday the group announced half-year profits which although 30 per cent up on £5.6 million, were well below the general run of analysts' forecasts.

Pre-opening expenses, running at between £50,000 and £80,000 a store, will have an even greater impact in the second half at a time when gross margins already seem to be under pressure because of a shifting sale mix.

Nevertheless, with the group achieving an underlying growth in volume of around 7 per cent, full-year profits of nearly £14 million against £10.8 million last time look possible.

Moreover, the expansion is being achieved without any appreciable increase in bank debt, thanks largely to a clever sale and leaseback programme. Negotiations are at an advanced stage for the sale and leaseback of the company's new freehold distribution warehouse at Wellingborough, Northants, for around £10 million, and similar deals are planned on a number of the new stores to finance the balance on the £20 million the company is spending this year on freeholds and buildings.

Fixtures, fittings and stocks will be financed out of cash flow, the group says. Clearly, the expansion programme is

going to bring rich rewards on a three to four-year view though with the shares - down 19p yesterday at 333p - selling at 22.5 times likely earnings and yielding only 1.4 per cent, an investment in Home Charm is not cheap.

Suter

Suter is one of four engineering companies showing the market a clean pair of heels. The four are still small, but they are all ambitious. Of the pack, Evered is probably the best known, thanks to its share buying in TI. The largest however is F H Tomkins, where Mr Gred Hutchings is putting his Hanson Trust training to use. Tailing the others is Williams Holdings.

Suter has the lowest rating of the four and is attempting to boost its share price. To succeed it may have to change the presentation of its figures as the present system fails to distinguish between organic and acquired growth.

Apparently £1.5 million of the reported £2.5 million increase in interim profits to £4.21 million came from acquisitions. The chairman, Mr David Abell, says the existing businesses increased their contribution by 70 per cent.

To demonstrate to a sceptical investment audience that the existing businesses can continue to grow, Mr Abell says he is going to refrain from further acquisitions in the short term. Meanwhile, he is threatening legal action in respect of a shortfall against forecast profits at Francis Industries which Suter acquired last year.

He hopes to boost the shares and the p/e ratio, now at 154p and 11, respectively.

If successful, Suter will no doubt soon be back on the acquisition trail. And there is the chance, albeit small, that the four engineering companies of like mind could join forces to tackle a larger purchase.

It may even be that Evered will look to the others to buy parts of TI, were it to acquire the lumbering giant. That would reduce the size of its commitment. But given Suter's short-term concerns, a combined approach looks of the mark, for the time being.

APPOINTMENTS

● **Unilever:** Dr Francois-Xavier Orrell has been made an advisory director.

● **Henderson Pension Fund Management:** The following are now directors: Mr Richard Hills, Mr Charles Lindell and Mr David Taylor.

● **Bell Fruit Manufacturing:** Mr Keith Healey has been made managing director. He succeeds Mr Jim Cameron, who retains

his position as executive chairman. Mr John Austin and Mr Dale Chadwick have been appointed sales and marketing director and technical director respectively.

● **Touche Remnant:** Mr Michael Anthony has joined as a director of Touche, Remnant and managing director of Touche, Remnant Pension Fund Management.

● **Meon Travel:** Mr Graham Brett is the new financial director. He succeeds Mr Tim Bassett who remains as director and chief executive.

● **Robson Rhodes:** Mr Neil Cooper joins as an associate partner.

● **Wood Mackenzie:** Mr Roy Dantzie is to be appointed a director.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

£100m sought for used mortgages

By Richard Thomson

Stock market investors will today be offered an opportunity to take a stake in the booming mortgage finance sector. National Home Loans Corporation will be the first publicly quoted company to do so actively in mortgage finance. It is raising £100 million in equity and loan capital and offering 25 per cent to the investing public.

On paper, the prospects for such an investment look good, indicating high profits backed by almost cast iron security. In practice, however, success may not be so straightforward.

The company's launch is the latest of a series of innovations in the mortgage finance field. The banks, particularly US banks such as Bank of America, have been experimenting with new ways of raising money for home loans. Their aim is to find a simpler method as an alternative to the traditional retail fund raising through small deposits which is both expensive and complicated.

Even the big building societies are looking seriously at newer, cheaper methods of raising funds to supplement their huge numbers of depositors and vast branch networks.

The focus of interest is the wholesale money market. Bank of Scotland has shown, for example, how to raise funds for mortgages through syndicated loans involving banks that have little retail muscle in Britain but which want a share of the mortgage action.

The larger building societies have been building up their money market borrowings for some time in various forms. The most recent was the £150 million Eurosterling issue by the Halifax.

At the same time, banks and building societies have been looking at the possibilities of buying and selling each other's mortgage commitments. A full-blooded secondary mortgage market with blocks of home loans being bought and sold like other securities, as exists in the US, looks a possibility but is seriously complicated by the floating rate of British home loans.

In the United States, mortgage finance is a more like securities, whereas British building society mortgages are more individual contracts at a floating rate to be fixed by the society, of which borrowers, like depositors, are members. This makes it easier for an American company to build up portfolios of mortgages, but makes financing them more risky.

One important series of mortgage sales was that initiated by Liverpool City Council early this year when it "sold" a £30 million portfolio of home loans to a syndicate of banks led by Banque Paribas in London. Since the council retained both the administration and the risk of the loans, it was, however, more like a loan than a sale.

This is the arena which National Home Loans is entering. Mr Richard Lacy, the new company's chief executive and erstwhile chief general manager of Birmingham & Bridgewater Building Society, insists that NHL is not a competitor to the banks and building societies.

It has no intention of moving into the retail selling of mortgages, except in a small way, but aims to buy - or take over - the home loans of other institutions, he said. Initially, these will be local authorities and insurance companies, both theoretically eager to get rid of their irksome mortgage commitments which they only took on for reasons unrelated to the business of mortgage finance.

To this end Cypri Finance, wholly owned by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, has been taken on to advise NHL on its dealings with local authorities.

The opportunity to make good business out of this has arisen for the same reason that made all lenders turn to wholesale money markets. NHL believes that with such high quality security as there is with mortgages - the default rate is well below 1 per cent - the company will be able to raise funds at only a small margin over London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor).

As competition has forced up building societies' retail funding rates more or less into line with money market rates, NHL will be paying no more for its money than the mighty Halifax.

At the same time it will enjoy the increasing differential between funding rates and mortgage rates enjoyed by mortgage lenders over the last few years. As marketing expenditure and tax changes on gilts have increased building societies' operating costs, their mortgage rates have crept upwards. Six years ago the average home loan rate was 0.06 per cent above three-month Libor. Four years later it had pushed up to 1.33 per cent.

On the cost side, NHL will have one central office to set against the highly expensive branch network of both banks and building societies. The average cost to building societies of administering their operations is now around £1.15 per £100 of assets but Mr Lacy compares NHL to the Guardian Building Society which has only a single office in the centre of London.

The Guardian's cost ratio is 40p per £100 of assets and NHL expects to achieve this level of costs within a couple of years. The combination of favourable borrowing costs and low administration costs should give NHL a profit margin on its mortgage lending of some 0.6 per cent after three years.

A building society earning such an improved margin would, in theory, be obliged to increase the interest rates offered to its investors and share down its mortgage rates. But for NHL it means not an undercutting of the rate on mortgages but a bigger payout to shareholders. The success of the operation relies heavily on keeping administration costs as low as possible, and that means building up its lending portfolio as fast as possible. Mr Lacy

expects to have acquired between 1 and 2 per cent of the British mortgage market within three years, giving the company a portfolio of around £1 billion to £2 billion.

If the new company were to have problems, it is most likely to be in building up its mortgage portfolio fast enough. Unlike the Liverpool-style mortgage "sales", NHL intends to take over mortgages lock, stock and barrel.

It will accept the risk, the administration and the rate setting for which all full lenders are responsible. But since the Government has changed the rules and requires that no mortgage can change hands without the specific consent of each individual borrower.

NHL already has more than 20 local authorities interested in its scheme, but it is up to the authorities themselves to persuade their borrowers to agree to the switch in lender. They have some strong arguments.

For example, although local authorities must give mortgages to council house buyers if asked, they do not give extra top-up loans for home improvements later on. NHL will provide these if required by its new borrowers. It will also offer an interest rate of around 0.25 per cent less than the rate the councils have to charge under government rules.

Additionally, NHL will grant authorities the option to buy back any mortgage in default prior to foreclosure to enable them to fulfil their obligations to look after homeless families.

Insurance companies - and, indeed, other financial institutions such as banks which NHL intends to approach in the future - could be more problematical. Such institutions already charge market rates on mortgages and offer top-up loans, so the advantage of a change in lender will not be so evident to their borrowers.

Some insurance companies are likely to be interested in shifting their illiquid mortgage portfolios but all the signs at present are that the big insurers are seriously considering a re-entry into the mortgage market on their own behalf. They are keen to sell more endowment policies that way and they have the retail selling power already there to do so.

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Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/8%
Adam & Company	11 1/8%
Bardays	11 1/8%
BCCI	11 1/8%
Collins & Son	11 1/8%
Comptroller & Co.	11 1/8%
Continental Trust	11 1/8%
C-operative Bank	11 1/8%
C. Hoare & Co.	11 1/8%
Leeds Bank	11 1/8%
Midland Bank	11 1/8%
Nat Westminster	11 1/8%
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Applicants should have 4 GCSE 'C' levels to include English Language plus shorthand/typing speeds of 100/50 wpm. Word Processing skills desirable. Four years secretarial experience is required, together with some at senior level.

If you have the necessary qualifications and experience then why not consider working for this organisation concerned with one of today's most critical issues.

Please send CV for Personnel Department, IPPF, 18 Lower Regent Street, London SW1 4PW

SENIOR AUDIO SECRETARY TO £10,500

Our client an international professional company seeks a secretary to a Director. This position needs a discreet, committed, loyal person to maintain good client relationships and help run his busy office. Benefits include modern offices, flex time, and subsidised restaurant. 80wpm, audio ability and previous W/P experience.

TUNE INTO TV £9,500

A major television network seeks a first class administrator to join their department responsible for publishing and publishing details of their latest TV programmes. A confident outgoing personality, 50wpm typing ability and an 'A' level education needed.

THE BENEFITS OF BANKING £11,000

A top International Investment Bank seeks a PA/Secretary to the Management Director. He travels extensively and as his PA you will enjoy a great deal of responsibility and high level client contact. Excellent benefits include a generous mortgage subsidy.

City 01-240 3551 West End 01-240 3531/3531

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

The Job: PA/Secretary to Chairman & Company Secretary.

The Company: To quality menswear retailer.

The Salary: £9,500 pa + bonus/benefits.

The Candidate: YOU???

Please ring for further details and application form to Personnel - 01-986 3166, Ext 204.

HORNES

PA/SECRETARY FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

Are you bright, resourceful, hard working and personable? Do you possess excellent shorthand, audio and typing skills? Are you mature and a superb administrator and organizer? If the answers are 'Yes' read on. The M.D. of a newly formed small magazine publishing company, with two well-respected specialist journals and plans for expansion, wants an exceptional person to help to build the company. In addition to his secretarial duties, the successful candidate will have responsibilities for investing, credit control and production. A key part of the job will be conference organising. Salary £8,500 and up to £10,000 for right person. 4 weeks holiday, profit sharing. Offices in Battersea. Apply: Mark Allen Publishing, Battersea Business Centre, 103/109 Lavender Hill, London, SW11 3QL. 01-233 1649.

ADMIN ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Excellent opportunity for ambitious minded hard working person to expand their general commercial experience by joining the admin & sales office of a small specialist company in SW London. General admin duties, client contact, coupled with many routine tasks plus the chance to develop your skills in administrative roles up the ladder of this job. The company is currently planning to move premises (within London) but in the meantime working conditions are cramped and somewhat basic. A move should allow further scope for the right person in this position. Good typing skills, along with ability to work on own initiative are essential.

Salary: £8,000

CVs to Mrs. Scott, THE NOTE AND BALLOON COMPANY, 813 GARRATT LANE, LONDON SW16.

SYNERGY RECRUITMENT PLUS

£25,000

A top flight Recruitment firm with a reputation for carrying out an unusually wide range of recruitment services, is seeking a Director of Administration. The successful candidate will be responsible for your own recruitment area. Type at 40 wpm.

SYNERGY
the recruitment consultancy
01-937 9533

Merchant Bank City
PA/SEC £10,500 (100/60)

Good educational background, for Director of Administration/Finance work. Salary £20,000+ superb benefits.

Property Development City
PA/SEC £10,500 (100/60)

Good with people, outgoing and friendly for lively, stimulating position. Salary £25,000.

Please ring 794 5788 or 427 3495
130 Oxford St. No. 200.

Miller/McNish

ADVERTISING/RECRUITMENT PA TO DIRECTOR £9,000

23+ PR, recruitment advertising, marketing, design. These will be your areas of involvement as PA/Secretary to a young Director of this major UK consultancy. Good admin and organisational abilities are essential to totally run his busy office and arrange his hectic diary, which includes frequent business trips in the UK and overseas. Good secretarial skills, 90/50, are also a must. The ideal applicant will be able to cope in any situation, have a sense of humour and will take pride in both work and presentation.

01-437 8311
Finesse
APPOINTMENTS LTD

Specialists for the 18-25 year olds

SQUIBB EUROPE INC

Secretary to Vice President

Required to work in the European Regional Office of this multi-national pharmaceutical company based in modern offices in Hounslow.

Candidates should have good educational background, sound shorthand and typewriting skills and experience of high-level secretarial work. Knowledge of a European language would be useful but not essential.

The Company offers an attractive employee benefits package and a good salary will be paid to the successful candidate.

Applications in writing should be addressed to:-
Mrs. Edna Brown, Personnel Officer, Squibb Europe Inc., Squibb House, 141 Staines Road, Hounslow TW3 3JA.

SQUIBB

FOREFRONT OF TECHNOLOGY £11,000

A senior PA with an interest in information and technology is needed by the Director of a leading firm of consultants based in SW1. He travels extensively so you must have the ability to work on your own initiative and take responsibility for the smooth running of his office. You should also be numerate and have excellent secretarial skills.

100/60. Age: 26-32.
WEST END OFFICE 01-929 9888

ANGELA MORTIMER

HIGH TECH DOUBLE £9,500 + M/B

A leading UK Merchant Bank has just recruited two new managers to design and set up Electronic Systems in the City and overseas.

Both require PAs who will become fully involved in their work and will provide secretarial and organisational support as well as deal with a wide range of people.

Confidence, an outgoing personality and good all round secretarial/communication skills are essential for both positions.

Age 25-35. Skills 100/60

CITY OFFICE 01-725 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

A LEADER IN THE FIELD £11,000

The MD of a leading news magazine needs a top flight PA with impeccable skills (100/80) and social poise to assist him with the efficient running of his office, which includes a public relations function. You should have a lively interest in the business world since you will be meeting the captains of industry. Previous board level experience is a must. Age: 27-35.

WEST END OFFICE 01-929 9888

ANGELA MORTIMER

AUDIO £11,000 HOUNSLOW

The dynamic financial director of this large investment co. is looking for a mature level headed PA to help him with his day to day work. He is a busy man and you must have the ability to work on your own initiative and take responsibility for the smooth running of his office. You should also be numerate and have excellent secretarial skills.

100/60. Age: 26-32.
WEST END OFFICE 01-929 9888

ANGELA MORTIMER

SPANISH MD's PA £9,500

The MD who heads a subsidiary of leading international bank requires a mature level headed PA to help him with his day to day work. He is a busy man and you must have the ability to work on your own initiative and take responsibility for the smooth running of his office. You should also be numerate and have excellent secretarial skills.

100/60. Age: 26-32.
WEST END OFFICE 01-929 9888

ANGELA MORTIMER

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE £10-15,000

The highly prestigious position within the bank world requires someone who is a team player, efficient manager and a public relations function. You should have a lively interest in the business world since you will be meeting the captains of industry. Previous board level experience is a must. Age: 30+.

01-499 0002

ANGELA MORTIMER

Between Jobs...

Have you considered temping? Until you find a new position or as a rewarding full time career.

We have a variety of good interesting assignments available immediately for good shorthand and audio secretaries which offer:-

- Top rates.
- Holiday pay.
- Continuous work.

Call Karen Sherman or Christine Williams today - you could be working tomorrow!

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

SECRETARY FOR BURSAR

The Bursar's Office is responsible for all matters of accommodation, furnishing, catering and maintenance in the School, its Halls of Residence and the Sports Ground. We need an experienced secretary to take charge of this busy office, who with an assistant will deal with a variety of secretarial and administrative duties for the Bursar and Administrative Officer.

The person appointed will be an experienced secretary with a good standard of general education and sound shorthand, typing and organisational skills. The ability to deal tactfully with people at all levels and to work under pressure is essential.

Salary will be in the range £7,750 - £8,750 and excellent conditions include over 5 weeks holiday and catering and social facilities.

Please telephone the Bursar, Mr John Lawrence, on 01-405 7686 ext 2086 or write to him at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES ST W1
01-259 7282

Live Wire! £10,000

Our clients are looking for a PA/Secretary to match their own lively, buccaneering spirit. Specifically working with a (recently joined) brilliant international trader, you will help set up his office and thereafter take care of every aspect. This is a young, exciting environment offering immense prospects for someone with excellent shorthand/typing.

Age 23+. For further details please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street, London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

COME IN AND SEE US TONIGHT

Tonight we would like to invite you to come in and see us in our City office. We will be holding an open evening between 5.00 pm and 6.30 pm in order to meet secretaries that find it difficult to visit us during office hours. It will be a very informal evening and we are very easy to find - just 3 minutes from the Bank - Walbrook exit, or 1 minute from Cannon Street tube - Dowgate Hill exit.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
23 Colledge Hill London EC4 Telephone 01-240 3551

PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Design Consultancy - Highgate Village

Career opening for intelligent, self-motivated and experienced all-rounder. Responsible for the day to day running of a busy and successful consultancy.

Duties would include the usual PA and secretarial functions of a busy office. Excellent salary and benefits. Contact Mrs. E. Brown, Design Consultancy, 10 Highgate Village, Highgate, London, N6 6JY.

VITAL INGREDIENT! c.£9,000+benefits

If you enjoy a varied and interesting job and work well in a team, this could be the opportunity for you. The Sales Manager of a company in EC2 who produce and distribute foodstuffs needs an Audio Secretary/PA. He is very dynamic, in his 30's, great at concepts but needs you for the details. He is out of the office much of the time and as a result, needs someone who can deal with everything in his absence from contact with area managers, to customer relations, general correspondence and keeping personnel records.

Please ring 586 3535

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

YOUR 2nd JOB IN ADVERTISING £5,000

Exciting opportunity for a young and enthusiastic PA. The care of your own prestige account, get to know the contacts and understand that the company is growing. For a super career in advertising, if you have good skills and ambition, call MORRIS WUBSCHNEIDEN on 01-730 2212.

DRAKE PERSONNEL

TEMP TO PERM

Why not try out a few jobs before settling down permanently? We have several clients looking for experienced secretaries to fill a wide range of vacancies. Good skills and WP exp essential.

01-730 2212 (Rec. Cons.)

JAYGAR

THE KINGSWAY PROMISE

We're a leading specialist temporaries consultancy and for professional, highly skilled people we make a promise...

CONSTANT WORK IN HIGH PROFILE CO'S

SUPERIOR RATES OF PAY

REGULAR PAY INCREASES

BONUS SCHEMES

FREE CROSS-TRAINING ON WP'S

TEAM INCENTIVE COMPETITIONS

PLUS WE PAY YOU WAITING TIME WHILST WAITING FOR A BOOKING

KINGSWAY

Temporary Staff Consultants

1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XJ Tel: 01 834 9272
Duke Street House (Opposite St. Pauls), 415/417 Oxford Street, London W1R 1FH Tel: 01 629 9663

Executive Secretary

Circa £11k

The Divisional Manager of a well-established multi-national group with global representation needs:

French-Speaking Executive Secretary/PA

to help run the Divisional Office controlling the activities of the Group in Africa, initially based in North-West London but moving to new offices in Surrey. This varied, demanding and involved post requires a mature and flexible professional who will:

- Perform a full secretarial role
- Organise the office
- Liaise with overseas managers
- Arrange travel and travel expenses
- Deal with personnel administration

Ideally you will be career-oriented, over 25, have excellent secretarial skills, W/P experience and the ability to integrate into a young and dynamic team.

Initial interviews with Sylvia Baker who has been retained to advise on the role. Telephone 01-437-696, Chesham House, 136 Regent Street, London W1R 3FA.

DRAKE EXECUTIVE... a Division of the DRAKE INTERNATIONAL GROUP

GERMAN - FRENCH - SPANISH

GERMAN: Harrow/Slough. Two senior secretaries needed, both with impeccable English and German, to assist the M.D. of a publishing-related company in Harrow (no shorthand) and the Sales Director of a household name multinational in Slough (with shorthand). Salary area: £9,000 or so.

FRENCH and GERMAN: W1. US investment company with gorgeous new, five-story office is looking for two experienced shorthand secretaries who enjoy teamwork and need the latest equipment. Both will work in corporate finance, principally for a French MD or for an American V-P (German speaking). Salaries up to £23,000.

SPANISH: W1. Private secretary (25+) with fluent Spanish and experience at senior level sought by Chairman of wine firm. Excellent needs to be of mature, long-term level - need we say we are looking for someone literate, poised and well educated. Shorthand, organisational ability and other skills of equally high standards, of course. Salary area £8,500 - £9,000.

Multilingual Services
Recruitment Consultants
22 Charing Cross Road, WC2
01-556 3794/5

MLS

Secretarial Recruitment

Next week, on Wednesday 18 September, Gordon Yates Ltd will be advertising for an experienced Recruitment Consultant. Experience of either permanent or temporary secretarial recruitment will be considered relevant.

If because of holiday plans or for any other reason you wish to express an interest at this stage, please write in confidence (giving brief details) to Richard Grace at:

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street, London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

LINK Personnel

FASHIONABLE INTERIORS £10,000.

Young PA to assist a Director in a variety of responsibilities. Good administrative skills with 90/90 will secure your future.

PRODUCTION to £8,000

Exciting, varied position with lots of scope. Audio/Shorthand useful. Positive attitude essential.

MARKETING ADMIN £8,000.

Major West End firm needs an enthusiastic organiser for this hectic young department. 2 years experience and good typing essential.

262 Regent Street, London W1, 01-434 2402 (24 hrs)

EXPERIENCED AUDIO SEC

25+ required for W1 Chartered Accountant with varied interests. Work in elegant comfortable office. Willing to be mobile and work in or out of office. Shorthand and W/P Word Processor experience an advantage. Some client contact and good admin and secret experience essential. Salary negotiable around £9,500+ benefits.

Please phone Brian Holt on 935 3144

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

For successful expanding Secretarial consultancy specialising in City Banking appointments. Proven consultancy/inter-viewing experience essential together with drive and initiative. Salary negotiable a.s.a. + excellent bonus system.

438 1561/2653

NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL

Recruitment Secretary to Advertising Sales Department based in Mayfair. Age 25+ typing and shorthand essential. Salary £10,000 plus benefits. Please ring 629 8361

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

International financial services company with offices in pleasant part of Mayfair requires two top Secretaries. Must be competent, careful, and able to handle a variety of equipment. Please ring 2628 & The Times

BLOW YOUR OWN TRUMPET

As one of our professional temporary PA/secretaries you will have every reason to feel pleased with yourself. Our senior level team is always in demand and has established an excellent reputation with our many clients in the West End and City. We pay first class hourly rates if you have speeds of 100/60 and 2 years Director level experience in London. WP skills are always a bonus. Enjoy the satisfaction of working at the level you deserve by ringing:

434 4512 (West End)
588 3535 (City)

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

THE WORK SHOP

Tasteful Temping...

No hassles. No let-downs. Just plain, simple, high grade temping.

A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and thoroughly professional service.

If you have sound skills and experience, you should be talking to 'The Work Shop'.

Telephone Sue Cooke on 01-409 1232

Recruitment Consultants

Film/Video £9,000

Our client, a USA-based film and video company with international connections, seeks a young PA/Secretary with good audio skills to work with one of their Managers. Excellent benefits include free cinema tickets, free video rent, social club and STL. Flexibility of approach and a minimum of one year's experience in a demanding secretarial job is required. Age 22+. For further details please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street, London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

SYNERGY RECRUITMENT PLUS

£25,000

A top flight Recruitment firm with a reputation for carrying out an unusually wide range of recruitment services, is seeking a Director of Administration. The successful candidate will be responsible for your own recruitment area. Type at 40 wpm.

SYNERGY
the recruitment consultancy
01-937 9533

مكتبة القرآن

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5

SENIOR SECRETARY

Watford

The Engineering Industry Training Board exists to promote and maintain training standards within the engineering industry. We currently seek a Senior Secretary to join a small secretarial team who carry a high level of responsibility and require the tact and discretion necessary for handling confidential work. She/he will provide a full secretarial service for the Head of Finance and Head of Corporate Services.

Applicants should possess an 'A' level education, a recognised secretarial qualification and secretarial skills of 100/80. The successful applicant will have had several years experience of working at senior management level and be expected to use their own initiative. Salary will be commensurate with age, qualifications and experience. Benefits include a contributory pension scheme, 20 days annual leave rising to 25 days after 5 years service, sports and social club facilities and a preferential BUPA scheme.

Please write or telephone for an application form to:

Miss K. M. Kallar,
Senior Personnel Officer,
Engineering Industry Training Board,
41 Clarendon Road,
Watford, Herts. WD1 1HS.
Telephone: Watford 44322.



EITB

Closing date for return of completed application forms: 20th September 1985.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES in newly-formed department

Our Public Affairs Department is now The Stock Exchange's focal point for maintaining contact with senior and influential bodies such as Parliament, Whitehall, the Press, Industry, the Academic World and the Professions. We now have two opportunities for people wishing to develop their skills in this highly stimulating environment.

SECRETARY

£9,000 + benefits

You will be working for the Head of Public Affairs and two other senior officers and will be involved in a wide range of secretarial and administrative tasks. You should be highly experienced and possess all of the normal secretarial skills. However, the person we are seeking will also have the maturity and confidence to deal with people at a senior level, which may include Members of Parliament and the Press. Good communication and interpersonal skills are, therefore, essential.

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

£6,200 + benefits

Your main duties will consist of providing secretarial and filing assistance to the Senior Secretary and the Department as a whole, and to assist the Office Administrator with general administrative tasks. You should be a self-starter with little need of supervision, have some previous clerical experience, and a minimum typing speed of 50 w.p.m. An aptitude for computer/word processing would be an advantage.

The benefits for both of these positions include free travel, lunches, BUPA and a non-contributory pension scheme. Please apply with a full C.V. to Elizabeth Hunt, Personnel Officer, The Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

The Stock Exchange

FASHION PUBLIC RELATIONS MARKETING MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS DESIGN ADVERTISING POLITICS HOTELS PRESS OFFICES ENTERTAINMENT ESTATE AGENTS BANKING BROKING

Excellent presentation required as well as some shorthand, audio and fast typing. Age 17-30. We have several jobs in each of these categories of business. Salaries range from £7,000 for college leavers to £17,000 for more experienced secretaries.

T.M. International Ltd.
Secretarial
Recruitment
50 Hains Crescent SW1

Individual career
advice for
secretaries and
personal assistants

TM
01-294 3551
01-294 3552

PERSONNEL SECRETARY

£8,500

A famous large international company with a very busy personnel office seeks a bright, confident secretary to join them. You will be trained in all the recruitment functions and will have your own specific areas of responsibility. Benefits include free travel and subsidised restaurant. Other benefits include previous W/P experience.

INTERESTED IN THE ARTS
£8,500

This is an ideal position for an experienced secretary to join the TV network as a secretary in the Channel 4 office. You will get excellent training and will be at the top within a very successful and interesting company. Benefits include 5 weeks holiday, 110/60 skills needed.

City 01-240 3551
West End 01-240 3551/3551

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BRAND NEW

to £17,000

with Spanish

Set up a new international Division of a successful knowledge property development company. Working closely with the Managing Director you will help establish and run the new company in its frequent absence. They deal with property in America and Spain and Spanish is necessary for telephone and correspondence. Properly experienced an advantage. Good secretarial skills (100/60) essential.

Age 25-35
Free lunch + BUPA
Phone ring 434 4512

Crone Corkill

88 Regent St., W.1.

TRADE IN

FOR £10,000

A team spirit is essential for this busy but exciting position. One of the City's leading investment banks needs an enthusiastic flexible and cheerful secretary to help look after their fast expanding trading department. You must be a quick, hard worker with good accurate typing, preferably shorthand and 'A' levels.

Please ring 588 3531
Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

RECRUITMENT

CONSULTANT

Leading W1 Specialist Secretarial Consultancy needs a self-motivated, enthusiastic, abundant with charm, intelligence and energy for this rewarding and highly demanding position.

Call Kate on 629 3441
(All applications treated in strictest confidence)

CHANGE OF A LIFETIME

£10,000

Could you set up a business from scratch - choose the equipment, establish the system and run things from there? If so, this could be what you've been looking for. As a young, dynamic, energetic, motivated and ambitious person, you will find this a very exciting and challenging opportunity. If you have W/P experience and excellent presentation, call MARIE OSTROWSKI on 834 0338

834 0338
DRAKE PERSONNEL

ADVERTISING EXEC

£9,000

Your dynamic, PR and advertising experience will give you a pleasant and challenging job. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the advertising department and will be expected to develop new clients and extend their knowledge in this aggressive but exciting industry.

W1 style and ambition call MARIE OSTROWSKI on 834 0338

834 0338
DRAKE PERSONNEL

SPARKLING P.A.

£9,000

Detail of executive level, both in the UK and USA, when you make a career move to the fun, world famous consumer goods manufacturer. Your sparkling personality and natural charm are essential for dealing with clients during your busy day and based in your own office. Your good sense will be a great asset in this aggressive but exciting industry.

Call Wendy Lee on 221 6022

221 6022
DRAKE PERSONNEL

SECRETARY

£9,000

Required for busy estate agents office in Essex. Good typing skills essential. Interesting job with opportunity to meet people. Salary £7,500. Apply in writing or telephone for application form.

Angela Stanley & Company,
274 Fallow Road, SW10,
351 5537

CJES

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3578
Telex: 887374 Fax: 01-588 9216

New appointment with scope for the future

PARTNER'S SECRETARY

WC2

£8,000 - £10,000 + Bonus

Our clients, a small but rapidly expanding firm of consulting accountants, seek a secretary with good shorthand, typing and audio skills. There is scope to use initiative and in addition to correspondence, reports etc., responsibilities include business travel, etc. The atmosphere is friendly and supportive, with modern office equipment, including word processing on the IBM p.c. working conditions are good, with modern office equipment, including word processing on the IBM p.c. (experience helpful but training will be provided). The successful applicant is likely to be in their twenties, with the confidence to take on increased responsibility as the firm grows, and with the polish and manner for client contact. Initial remuneration is negotiable in relation to age and experience in the range £8,000-£10,000 + generous bonus payments. Applications in strict confidence under reference PSC647/TT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS), 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3578. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-588 9216

SECRETARY/PA

£18,000

Special opportunity exists for dynamic W1/PA to work for the Managing Director of a leading international company. Responsible & challenging position involving lots of organisation. Good hours, free parking, excellent benefits & company prospects (inc. Ours).

abbatt
01-937 3676

EXECUTIVE SEC.

£9,500 + Bonus

Dynamic & energetic person to act as an experienced senior secretarial secretary to work for the Vice-President and senior executives of a leading international company. Responsible & challenging position involving lots of organisation. Good hours, free parking, excellent benefits & company prospects (inc. Ours).

abbatt
01-937 3676

INT. HOTEL GROUP

£9,000 +

Internationally renowned hotel group seeking a large talented secretarial secretary to assist in preparing management reports, budgets, etc. as well as general secretarial duties. Excellent benefits & company prospects (inc. Ours).

abbatt
01-937 3676

Travel PR

£9,000

A young, lively person requires a responsible secretarial assistant and co-ordinating officer to help them market some of the world's most glamorous tourist resorts. The post, a relaxed, 'laid-back' Californian lifestyle, looks for a quick mind and human intelligence, and delivers rapid, unstructured freedom for you to unscramble. An exciting environment with lots of prospects. Age 21+. Please telephone 01-493 5767.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street,
London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

Hotelier's PA

£10,000

This is an absorbing opening for someone with a career aspirations to work for a hotelier. Our Client is Director of European, African and Mid-East Operations for one of the world's largest hotel chains. As a PA Operations you will assume responsibility for liaison with his hotel managers and for problem-solving during his frequent absences overseas. Good skills (100/60) essential. Languages valued.

Age 24-34. Please telephone 01-493 5767.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street,
London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

EXEC PA TO MD

TOP SALARY & WALES

Personnel Group is young British & growing fast in electronic business machines. Our MD needs a versatile & resourceful PA able to tackle assignments & 'trouble-shoot' as well as organising his various activities. The ideal candidate is a graduate non-smoker with business & computer experience, languages & good communication skills. The job & the company are highly challenging & rewarding. Newport is superbly located for country life under 2 hours from London.

Please write to: EMBAR
BSS
PERSONNEL GROUP LTD
Lee Way
Newport, South Wales NP1 0SL

AUDIO SECRETARY

c.£9,000 pa

Small professional company based near Cannon St requires enthusiastic audio typist - 55 wpm. Varied and interesting post for someone with initiative.

Hrs 9.00-5.45 pm. To start as soon as possible.

Tel: 01-246 8743
Ref PHH
(No agencies)

ART AND TRAVEL

World famous company

World famous company requires new venture needs bright PA to help him, friendly team with very special - dynamic, energetic, national art lovers/collectors. Experience in travel/tourism field useful. Good secretarial skills, an eye for detail, pleasant personality and an interest in the arts essential. Excellent salary and package for the right person who can regard this job as a positive career move. Apply with cv and handwritten letter to: BSS, 35 Old Bond Street, London W1.

Age 24-34. Please telephone 01-493 5767.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street,
London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

PI SECRETARY

EC4

Leading public relations consultancy close to Fleet Street seeks an experienced secretary (90/80) for its industrial and technical division. The person appointed will work for an account group client, and in addition to having fast and accurate typing skills and W/P experience, will possess the personal qualities required for working in the organisation of exhibitions, press conferences, special events and general client liaison.

A sense of commitment, good telephone manner and an organised approach to work are essential.

Age preferably mid 20's. Salary £7,000-£8,500.

For further information telephone: Personnel Department on 01-553 5272

LEGAL EAGLE

£8,500

This beautiful Georgian converted house, just off Baker St, will be your home when you start this exciting, fast-paced job. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the legal department and will be expected to develop new clients and extend their knowledge in this aggressive but exciting industry.

Play House Studios
New on 734 0711

DRAKE PERSONNEL

REGENCY/GRACE

AND STYLE

DEAL WITH

LORDS AND LADIES

Join ReGENCY and Style and deal with the most glamorous and exclusive of clients. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the legal department and will be expected to develop new clients and extend their knowledge in this aggressive but exciting industry.

Play House Studios
New on 734 0711

DRAKE PERSONNEL

COMMUNICATE

IN TV - £8,500

Someone involved in the dynamic world of TV and advertising who seeks a secretarial position. The person appointed will work for an account group client, and in addition to having fast and accurate typing skills and W/P experience, will possess the personal qualities required for working in the organisation of exhibitions, press conferences, special events and general client liaison.

Age preferably mid 20's. Salary £7,000-£8,500.

For further information telephone: Personnel Department on 01-553 5272

Petli Ross on 221 5072

DRAKE PERSONNEL

RECEPTIONIST

ST JAMES'S

c. £8,000

If you enjoy greeting your important clients and are looking for a challenging and rewarding job, this could be what you've been looking for. As a young, dynamic, energetic, motivated and ambitious person, you will find this a very exciting and challenging opportunity. If you have W/P experience and excellent presentation, call MARIE OSTROWSKI on 834 0338

834 0338
DRAKE PERSONNEL

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/2

Traditional touch for thoroughly modern Chelsea

Chelsea, home of the artist, designer and craftsman, has in recent years lost many of its traditional studios as they have been converted into more conventional homes. In an attempt to reverse this trend, a development has now been completed at Lott Road, Chelsea, containing 15 studio units with only rudimentary living accommodation.

The development, by Melbourne Court Estates, working closely with Kensington and Chelsea Council, has a central courtyard and most of the units have balconies or terraces.

The studios range from £47,000 for 375 sq ft, to £39,000 for 808 sq ft and £250,000 for 2,204 sq ft. The largest have provision for light industrial use.

Details: John D. Woods Mayfair Office.

Cecilia Sandys, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, is selling her London flat in Warwick Square, near Park Lane. The flat, one of the few large properties in the square, has four bedrooms and three reception rooms, and is on offer at £250,000 through Russell Simpson and Aline Honey.

The dragon's den
Fah-Long (meaning Lucky Dragon) at Moor Park, Hertfordshire, was built in the 1930s for a Mr Fah-Long, a former British ambassador to China, who was the founder of Moor Park Golf Club. When he retired from the diplomatic service, Mr Fah-Long ordered the house to be built to the exact specifications of the property he left in China, using the finest materials.

The house has an oriel balcony with a dragon motif below, and three reception rooms, two bedrooms, a study and three further bedrooms, with a guest flat and indoor swimming pool. Strutt & Parker is seeking offers of more than £250,000.

All that remains of a 19th-century gunpowder factory at Fritham, Wiltshire, Hampshire, is an artificially created pond and Eyeworth Lodge, home of the owner, Captain Schultz. Eyeworth Lodge, which Captain Schultz extended from an older building, stands in seven acres of grounds, with a staff cottage and outbuildings. Jackson and Jackson's Harrogate office is asking for offers around £250,000 for the house, which has four reception rooms and five main bedrooms.

Mountain mansion
Lord and Lady Lisburne are selling their 430-acre Cruglas estate in the Cumbrian mountains near Ystrad Meurig. The 18th-century Cruglas house, which has been in their family for generations except for a 30-year break recently, has three reception rooms and seven bedrooms, with gardens laid out by Lady Lisburne and Vernon Russell Smith.

The residential, sporting and agricultural estate adjoins the Crag Tregaron nature reserve, and Humberts and Cooke and Arkwright, of Harrogate, are seeking offers around £250,000.

A delightful east house, at Harrold, Kent, needing modernisation, is for sale through Bernard Thorpe and Partners, asking for offers of more than £200,000. Set in three acres, it has four to five bedrooms and three reception rooms.



Eastington Hall, one of the finest examples of timber-framed architecture, Grade I listed, near Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, is for sale through Knight Frank & Rutley, which is seeking offers of more than £700,000. The Great Hall dates from the 13th century and the original house was extended in the 15th century. During the First World War, Mademoiselle de Montgomerie bought Eastington Hall and enlarged it with alterations attributed to Lutyens. The house, restored by the present owners, has four reception rooms, 11 bedrooms, and extensive outbuildings, and stands in 32 acres.

Ownership in question

The increase in home ownership in recent years to more than 60 per cent is the result of a number of factors — the desire of people to own their own home, the decline of the private rented sector, and the policies of the Government in encouraging it by such methods as giving council tenants the right to buy.

Recent surveys have supported the idea that still more people want to join the majority. Up to 80 per cent of young people say they want to become home owners and there are predictions that the actual home ownership figure could reach 70 per cent or more in the next decade or so.

There are signs, however, that this may not be achieved. The sale of council houses has swelled the ranks but many of the better houses have been sold into the private sector, and there is evidence that such sales are now slowing down.

In addition there is increasing pressure to reverse the decline in the number of rented properties, particularly in the private sector which has dwindled from 90 per cent early this century to less than 10 per cent.

The Duke of Edinburgh's inquiry came firmly, to the conclusion that rented housing should be encouraged, to widen people's choice, and a new academic study just published casts doubt on the wisdom of expanding home ownership.

In *Housing Policy and the Future of Home Ownership in the UK*, Dr Michael Fleming, reader in economics at Loughborough University of Technology, and Joseph Nellis, lecturer in economics at the School of Management at Cranfield Institute of Technology, believe the expressed preference for ownership may have

been shaped by the system, in which the main alternative is council housing, rather than by consumer preference.

"It seems clear that housing is becoming socially polarized between the owner-occupier and public rented sectors and the social and political desirability of this development is debatable," they say.

They also point out that there is evidence that the narrowing of choice has affected fertility — because of the financial pressures placed on young house buyers — and that the virtual disappearance of the private rented sector has reduced the mobility of labour.

In the meantime, the authors find that with the present increasing numbers, first-time buyers are drawn fairly evenly from the manual and non-manual classes, compared with other buyers who are more concentrated among the higher social classes for rather obvious financial reasons.

The increased penetration among the lower social classes means greater demands on the cheaper parts of the housing stock with limited amenities — smaller, older terraced housing without garages and almost certainly lacking central heating. At the same time they need bigger advances than former owner-occupiers.

The authors assume that real incomes are not likely to overtake the rate of house price inflation and conclude that the main financial implication is that the further expansion of home ownership will mean a higher ratio of advances to incomes. At the same time the ratio for new entrants would have to grow beyond two and a half.

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also on page 30

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**Edited by Peter Dean
and Peter Davalle**

sed photograph.

and Carl Attwood (piano). Bottesini's *Elgie in D* for double-bass and piano; Maw's *The Old King's Lament*; Gilere's *Four Places* for double-bass and piano.[†]

11.57 News. 12.00 Closedown. VHF: Open University. From 6.36am to 6.55. Borghini's *Riposo*.

News on the hour (except 9.00pm)
(8.00pm VHF/FM only). Headlines
5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30, 4.00am
Colin Berry.t 6.00 Ray Moore.t 8.05 Ken
Bruce.t 10.30 Jimmy Young.t 1.05pm
Desmond Carrington.t incl 2.02 Sports
Desk. 2.05 Gloris Hunniford.t incl 3.02
Sports Desk. 3.10 Racing from
Doncaster. 3.30 Music All The Way.t incl
4.02 Sports Desk. 4.05 David
Hamilton.t incl 4.10 Racing from
Doncaster. 6.05 John Dunn.t incl 6.45
Sport (mtv only). 7.30 World Cup Soccer

CHANNEL 4

6.55 Shipping. 8.00 News Briefing: Weather. 8.10 Farming. 8.25 Prayer.

7.30 Today including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.45 Business News. 5.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News.

7.15 12-5 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day.

6.3 The Memoirs of Miss by Mary Dunn (3). Reader: Margot Boyd. Weather: Travel.

8.00 News.

11. In the Psychiatrist's Chair. Prima ballerina Lynn Seymour is Dr. Ann. Clara's subject on (1).

6. Penning Perspective. Phil Smith meets Bill Mitchell, Daleman (1).

10.30 Kaleidoscope. Includes comments on the ENO production of Orpheus in the Underworld.

10.5 A Book; and a Book for Women Who Ride Away" by D. H. Lawrence (1). Reader: Kika Michman.

10.30 The World Tonight.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Enterprise. Marjorie Louthouse visits Microsoft Ltd. of Coventry. 12.00-12.15am News. VHF (available in England & Wales only) as above except 12.00-12.15am News. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 5.00-5.55 PM (continued). 11.30-12.00am Open University. 12.00-12.05am Art. The Aesthetic. 11.55 Instrumentation.

Radio 3

6.55 Shipping. 7.00 News.

7.05 Your Midwest Choice: Recordings of Arnold's overture Tm O'Shanter; J. C. Bach's Sinfonia concertante in F for oboe, clarinet and orchestra; Beethoven's symphony no. 9; Pines of Rome; Bizet's Au fond du temple saint (Pearl Fisher) 7.00 News.

8.05 Your Midwest Choice (cont): Cowen's Onward, awake, beloved; Gluck's Dance of the Blessed spirits. Orchestral (non piano); Handel's Organ Concerto in B flat. Op 7 No 3; Mozart's Ein musikalischer Spaß, K 522. 8.00 News.

5.00 P.M. News magazine. 5.50

Radio 4

- 1.05 Pres: Records made by the American tenor saxophonist Lester Young
- 1.30 Excerpts from Federico Moreno Torroba's operetta La Chulengua. Sung in Spanish. Lyrics: Tomás Terán (title role), Pilar Lorengar, Carlos Fagoaga and Joaquín Portillo. With Orfeón de Cámara Orchestra and Chorus.
- 2.30 Don Giovanni at Dinner: Athens Ensemble play works by Martín, Arias y Mozart, and music arranged by John Adams. Dancers from Act 2 of Don Giovanni; Triebensee's Menuetto con Variations on the theme of Don Giovanni. Beechworth, Vatelons on La ci darem la mano, etc.)
- 3.10 Magnum: Toulouse Capello, French pop singer plays "The 6.4 Choral Evening": 4.55 News.
- 5.00 Music: The Pleasure of Stephen Starmann's selection of records. It finds: Fine Arts Brass (Saxophone); The Beatles' Mini Overturn; Jonty Harrison's Sons transmutants/Sons transmutants; Malcolm Arnold's Overture; The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Krause (partone), Irwin Gage (piano), and Carlos Bonell (guitar).
- 7.00 Songs: The Supergroup No 37 No 3; Seven on Kapteinsdip, No 37; and Kom nu liet, hoi, doid, Op 90 No 1.
- 8.00 Pres: 1985: Swedish Radio SO (under Salonen), with Lena Horne (soprano), and Hakon Heggeard (baritone). Part 1: Songs including Hostvellet Autumn Evening), Varst det en dream? (Was it a Dream?) and Svenska rosen (Swedish Rose). Also Lidholm's Kontakten!
- B5 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
- 8.25 Pops [cont'd]: Mahler's Symphony No 4.
- 9.30 Pres: Part 1: Sir John Jones reads the monologue by James Saunders [r].
- 10.30 Der Zar lässt sich Photographieren (The Czar has his Photographs taken). One-act opera by Weill. Sung in German. With Radio City Orchestra and Chorus (under Lathau-Kogel), with Barry McDaniel as the Czar, and a cast including Ceria Pohl, Thomas Scherberger and Maria Napier.

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice.

8.05 Your Midwest Choice (cont'd):
Coven's *Onaway, awake*,
which (Stu) *is* the best of
the blessed spirit, *Orfeo* (version for
piano); Handel's *Organ Concerto*
in B flat, Op 7 No 3; Mozart's *Ein
musikalisches Spiel*, K 522.
9.00 News.

YORKSHIRE As London except:

10:35 **TSW** As London except: 9:25am
Sesame Street 10:05-10:25
10:35 In the Land Of The Lapps. 11:00-
11:30 Incredible World of Adventure.
11:30-12:00 Sesame Street 12:05-12:30
12:30 Calendar. 1:30-2:30 Falcon Crest.
5:00-6:35 Calendar. 11:30 Freeze
Frame. 12:30 Closesown.

11:05 **TSW** As London except: 9:25am
Sesame Street 10:05-10:25
10:35 Landy, Camer, London. 11:20-11:30
Watloo Watloo. 12:30pm-1:00 News
That Meets The Eye. 1:20-1:30 News.
1:30-1:45 News. 1:45-2:00 News.
Crossroads. 5:00-7:00 Soap Walk. 11:30
Hawaii Five-O. 12:25am Postscript.
Closesown.

11:35 **GRAMPIAN** As London except:
9:25am First Thing
9:30 Sesame Street 10:05-10:25
10:35 Nature of Things 11:00-11:30 Short
Story Theatre 12:30pm-1:00
News. 1:30-1:45 News. 1:45-2:00 News.
North Tonight 11:30 Simon and Simon
12:30am News. Closesown.

12:05 **INDIAN ULSTERS** As London except: 9:25am
Sesame Street 10:25
10:30 Indian Legends of Canada 10:50
11:00-11:30 Sesame Street 11:30-12:00
12:30pm-1:00 Glad Place 1:20-1:30
1:40pm-2:00 Survival 3:30-4:00
Portrait of a Legend 6:00-6:35 Good
Evening 11:00 Mysteries of Edgar
Wallace 12:30am News. Closesown.

Street. 10.25 Bambi the Bear. 10.45-11.30 Dangerfreaks. 12.30pm-1.00 Something to Treasure. 1.20 News. 1.30

Joe Spock, 1.35 Finlay Fanny by Gary Sprot
(Phyllis Calvert), 9.30-4.00 Short Story
by John Galsworthy, 6.25-7.00 The Island
Tavern, 11.30 Late Call, 11.35 Mike
Hammer, 12.30-1.30 News.

BORDER As London except:
9.25am Sesame Street,
10.25 Prairie Habitat, 10.35 Great Xmas
11.00 Captain Jack, 11.05-11.30
Guess Who's Coming To Dinner 1.20-
1.30 News, 2.30 Fifty-Five Look-a-Loo
Young Doctors 6.00-6.35 Look-a-Loo
12.55am News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except:
9.25am News, 9.30
Sesame Street, 10.30 Shackleton - End
of the World, 10.50-11.00 The
12.30pm-1.00 Better Half, 1.50 News,
1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs Are, 2.00
News, 6.00-6.25 Roadside, 6.25-6.50
Fortnightly Quiz, 11.30-11.50
the News, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except:
8.25am Scooby Doo,
9.55 Short Story Theatre, 10.25
Shandy, Lights, Camera, Action, 11.20-
11.30 The Big Game, 11.35-11.50
More Than Meets the Eye, 1.20-1.30
News, 5.15-5.45 Duck Factory, 6.00-
6.30 The Big Game, 6.35-6.55
Gary Loyd Sound, 11.30 Hawaii
Five-O, 12.25am Closedown.

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ALDWYCH THEATRE 01-536
404/0541. cc 379 6233. Evenings

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ANTHONY d'OFFAY 9 and 23 Dering
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Kiefer, Twombly. 399 4100.

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